

THE North-China Herald

AND SUPREME COURT & CONSULAR GAZETTE.

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LATEST MAIL DATES.

England	Jan. 22	Hankow.....	Feb. 22
San Francisco	23	Yokohama	17
Hongkong	Feb. 22	Nagasaki	20
Tientsin	8	Foochow	23

Shanghai mail advices of 9th Jan. were received in London on the 15th February.

BIRTHS.

On the 8th of January, at 19, Redland Park, Bristol, the wife of the late W. G. TERRELL, L. M. S. Hsiaskan, Hankow, of a daughter.

At Pakhoi, China, on the 13th of February, 1897, the wife of E. L. B. ALLEN, Esq., H. M. Consul, of a son.

At 14, Quinsan Road, Shanghai, on the 18th of February, 1897, the wife of A. BORRU, of a son.

At Vienna, Austria, on the 19th of February, 1897, the wife of ADOLF SCHWARZ, daughter of H. ROSENZWEIG, of a daughter. —By telegram.

MARRIAGES.

At H.B.M. Consulate, Chinkiang, on the 15th of February, 1897, by W. R. Carles, Esq., ARCHIBALD ORR-EWING, of the China inland Mission, Kiukiang, to Miss A. K. FERRIMAN, daughter of T. F. FERRIMAN, Esq., of New Southgate, London, N.

On the 20th of January, 1897, at King's College Chapel, Old Aberdeen, by the Rev. G. Jamieson, D.D., and the Rev. John Calder, Ministers of Old Machar, CHARLES EDWARD HOLWORTHY, Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs Service, only son of the late Wilmot Wadeson HOLWORTHY, D.A.S.S., Military Store Staff, to EFFIE SCOTT, second surviving daughter of the late Rev. John ABEL, Forgue, Aberdeenshire.

DEATHS.

At Jinjou, Manchuria, on the 1st of February, 1897, WILLIE, dearly beloved son of Thos. L. BRANDER, M.B., C.M., aged 5½ years.

At 60, Broadway, Shanghai, on the 22nd of February, 1897, MAUD BEATRICE, the dearly beloved wife of JAMES REYNOLDS.

THE NORTH-CHINA HERALD.

TERMS FOR ADVERTISING.—Ten Lines (space *Bourgeois*) and under, *One Tael*; each additional line *One Mace*. One-half of these charges for repetitions. Contracts may be made for 3 months, or longer, payable in advance.

The North-China Herald.

IMPARTIAL NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, FRIDAY, FEB. 26, 1897.

THE BAR AND THE RIVER.

TWENTY-ONE years ago, *i.e.*, on the 28th of February, 1876, Messrs. J. de Ryke and G. A. Eschler presented to the Consular Body a voluminous report upon the result of their survey which had in view the improvement of the condition of the Huangpu River. Practically nothing has been done since then to carry into effect their recommendations, but the presence in Shanghai of Mr. de Ryke, on a short vacation from Japan, where he is in the Government service, is a fitting opportunity for drawing attention to a grave matter which is threatening the future of the port. The classification of witnesses adopted by a learned judge into "simple liars, d-d liars, and scientific experts" is well-known, but we can recall no instance in such an important matter as the present where a scientific gentleman after the lapse of so long a period has been able to come forward, like Mr. de Ryke, and say that the course of events has been just as he and his colleague predicted, and that had the measures they recommended been carried out their promises would have been fulfilled. But Mr. de Ryke can do this, and having gone over familiar ground more or less cursorily, he assures us that the condition of the Huangpu has changed vastly for the worse and that unless a complete scheme of regulation is carried out Shanghai must lose its position as a port, and that within a very few years. It is not a matter of opinion, founded upon hasty surmise, but based upon the technical surveys and documents which are available in the office of Captain Bisbee, the Harbour Master. Cross sections of the river between the Outer Bar and the Pootung Point show an alarming accretion of solid matter in what used to be navigable channels, and with the characteristically rapid growth of such hindrances, the river is being affected most seriously over the portion which is the key to Shanghai. When the original survey was drawn up it was pointed out that the influence of the flood tide, almost the only power at work, in keeping open the channel was and is declining (decrease

always causes farther decrease), and that unless suitable works were completed, the bed would shoal and existing obstacles be added to. This is just what has happened. Owing to the junction which the Woosung Creek makes with the river, Pheasant Point (the result) has extended a considerable distance into the river, with what hazard to shipping the *Onwo-Newchwang* case is a striking instance, although persons conversant with the shipping could name many other cases where calamity has been avoided by the narrowest good fortune. The Outer Bar, the much more important of the two, is a rapidly growing menace to the visits of such steamers as the *Emprasses*, and before long we may find steamers drawing 20 or 22 feet shut out from the port. The rapid growth of Gough Island, to a great extent the result of corrosion on the right side of the Ship Channel, is obvious to all who have occasion to go down the river, whilst the Soochow Creek—obstructed as it has been by several bridges resting on numerous piles—is exercising its baneful influence in adding to the Pootung Point. All these evils are interdependent, and any scheme of improvement must deal with them collectively. The first thing to be secured, Mr. de Ryke points out, is that both the flood and ebb tide shall exert their influence in one channel. Now the flood is chiefly felt on the left bank, and the ebb on the right bank, whilst the cross-currents are leaving deposits the extent of which one would hardly credit. A seeming improvement in the depth of water on the Woosung Bar of late may have lulled unthinking persons into a sense of security, but the root of the mischief is not to be sought at that spot. Tinkering with the Bar will avail little or nothing, and a comprehensive scheme must be thought of involving works from outside the Outer Bar to Black Point. When originally investigating the subject the engineers submitted two alternative plans, and the one involving the carrying out of works closing what is now known as the Ship Channel, and letting the full force of the tide use its power to deepen the Junk Channel, is the one Mr. de Ryke now recommends, although in a different way. He says that after, say, six months of preliminary arrangement the work could be carried out in less than three years, and though the cost has increased considerably, owing greatly to the higher price of materials and labour, since the date when the improvement was first suggested, it is still not too great for Shanghai to face, when all that is at stake, which must have increased at least three-fold and is still increasing, is borne in mind.

What is the cost? As near as can be said now between £1,000,000 and £1,500,000, certainly not more. At first sight these may appear big figures; but, as Mr. Hewett, the Shanghai Agent

of the P. and O. S. N. Co. (who has devoted considerable thought to the question, and who, with Mr. de Ryke, in the course of an interview, placed at our disposal a mass of valuable data) points out, the sum is by no means overwhelming when the trade of Shanghai is taken into account. The imports to Shanghai approximate a hundred million taels, and the exports between sixty and seventy million taels, whilst the Customs revenue is practically six million taels, and the Tonnage Dues received by the Customs represent £1,480,000, for the most part collected in Shanghai. A tax of one-tenth of one per cent upon the imports, as at one time proposed, would produce £1,000,000 a year, whilst out of the Tonnage Dues, the Chinese Government should be induced to contribute a corresponding sum. Although not expressly stipulated in the Treaty with Great Britain, it is conceded that the Tonnage Dues were intended to be utilised in providing lighthouses, and the Treaty with the United States particularly mentions this, but it is fairly evident that more than a quarter of the sum is yearly diverted to the uses of the Imperial Government. In its present appallingly impecunious condition there does not seem much hope of aid from the Chinese Government, but a resolute effort should be made to convince it that it cannot lightly appropriate this money, and allow a treaty port to silt up, as it is so evidently doing. Of course if it can be proved that nothing can be done that is another matter, but the threatened calamity is so grave, that property owners and merchants should lose no time in once more setting to work. We are assured that the works recommended are likely to have such a marked effect upon the port that a minimum depth of 20 feet of water at the lowest tide could be guaranteed. The work would have to be carried out under a Conservancy, for though the harbour officials appear to have done all that they could to arrest deterioration their powers are not sufficient, with the result that such extremely deleterious conditions have been permitted as have arisen from the erection of the German Consulate, and the neighbouring buildings near the mouth of the Soochow Creek, which will be found to hamper the operations of an engineer attempting to grapple with the case.

Finally, the possible effect of the projected railway from Woosung may be considered. The Chinese officials have all along evinced a peculiar affection for the Heaven-sent Barrier, and now that it promises to assist in the closing of the river, they regard it with increased fondness, in the hope that ships may be forced to discharge at Woosung and the goods be brought to Shanghai by train. But how do the foreign merchants, property owners, and residents like the prospect? It is evident that the cost of transporta-

tion by rail would be vastly more expensive than by ships coming up to the Settlement, or even the transfer of goods into cargo-boats; and from what little is known of the promoters' intentions, the chance of the new railway being able to handle cargo satisfactorily is a remote one. Looking at the whole question in the light of Mr. de Ryke's serious and carefully considered warnings, it behoves those interested to at once deliberate upon what action they shall take. It must never be forgotten that to allow the river to go on deteriorating as it is doing, is to allow the Outer Bar at the same time to become worse and worse. What then will be the use of the wharves that the Chinese are complacently building at Woosung, when ocean steamers cannot get over the Outer Bar? There is another question of great importance to the Chinese, the maintenance of a sufficient supply of water each flood tide to fill the irrigating creeks in the country; but this we have not space now to discuss.

Summary of News.

The *Empress of Japan* with the Vancouver mail of the 1st of February arrived here on Saturday morning.

The French mail of the 16th of January arrived here on the 22nd inst. by the M.M. Co.'s steamer *Melbourne*.

The English mail of the 22nd of January arrived here last night by the P. & O. Co.'s steamer *Kaiser-i-Hind*.

An American mail ex *Tacoma* arrived here last night in the *Oceanien* from Japan.

A mail leaves to-morrow morning for Europe by the M.M. Co.'s steamer *Calédonien*.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

SUPPLIED THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY
EXCLUSIVELY TO THE "NORTH-CHINA
DAILY NEWS."

THE NEW RUSSIAN MINISTER TO JAPAN.

London, 19th February.

Baron von Rosen, Russian Minister at Belgrade, has been appointed to Tokio.

TURKEY PREPARING FOR WAR.

Turkey is sending four men-of-war and ten torpedo-boats to Crete *instantly*, and a second squadron is to follow.

The Turkish Military and Naval Reserves have been called out.

THE U.S. SENATE IS RECALCITRANT.

London, 20th February.

The U.S. Senate has finally shelved the British Arbitration Treaty, to the great disgust of American public opinion.

GREAT BRITAIN WILL NOT JOIN IN COERCING GREECE.

Lord Salisbury has declined a proposal to blockade the Piræus, which originated with the Emperor of Germany. The German papers are resentful and regard this as striking at the peace of Europe.

PRESIDENT KRUGER'S LITTLE BILL.

The Right Hon. J. Chamberlain speaking in the House of Commons

said that the Transvaal's claims for the Jameson Raid were £677,938 for material damages, and £1,000,000 for moral damages. This does not include the claims of private persons.

The English Press ridicules the claim.

GREECE AND THE POWERS.

London, 22nd February.

Lord Salisbury has intimated to the Powers that, before taking any action against Greece, he desires to learn the views of the others regarding the future government of Crete, and states that he favours autonomy being granted to Crete as in the case of Samos. Italy and France agree with Lord Salisbury.

AUSTRIA GOES WITH GERMANY.

Austria alone has accepted the proposal of the German Emperor to blockade the Piræus.

ENTHUSIASM IN GREECE.

An immense demonstration has taken place in Athens, where the King of Greece delivered a stirring address from the balcony of the Palace.

EXCITEMENT IN ALBANIA.

There is excitement in Albania, where the Turks and Greeks are collecting on the frontier.

STERN MEASURES WITH THE INSURGENTS.

London, 23rd February.

The Powers have bombarded the insurgent camp at Canea owing to the insurgents' refusal to stop the fusillade.

Seventy shells were fired. The British fired first, and the cannonade lasted twenty-five minutes.

A German cruiser fired melinite shells. The insurgents fled.

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND THE BOMBARDMENT.

London, 24th February.

There was a scene in the House of Commons when the Hon. G. N. Curzon, Parliamentary Secretary for Foreign Affairs, confirmed the news of the bombardment at Crete. The Unionists cheered and the Opposition hooted. Mr. Labouchere, supported by the whole Opposition, moved the adjournment of the debate to discuss the matter.

The Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, First Lord of the Treasury, defended the bombardment, and stated that unanimous action of the Powers was essential to prevent a European war.

Sir William Vernon Harcourt protested against using British shells against Cretan Greeks. The motion was defeated.

MORE TRUCKLING.

M. Hanotaux, French Minister for Foreign Affairs, has stated that Great Britain suggested the forcing of the Dardanelles and the seizing of the Sultan, but that the Powers refused, and that Great Britain then adhered to the French proposal that the Ambassadors at Constantinople should collaborate in urging reforms.

He stated also that Crete would never return to direct Turkish admini-

nistration, but that it would be necessary to check Greece in order to avert a European war.

THE PUNITIVE EXPEDITION TO BENIN.

The British have captured Benin city.

BETTER NEWS FROM BOMBAY.

The plague in Bombay is decreasing to a slight extent.

TO CHECK THE SPREAD OF THE PLAGUE.

Pilgrimage to Mecca from the whole of India has been stopped.

A SLIGHT DISCREPANCY.

London, 25th February.

The Hon. G. N. Curzon has denied the statement of M. Hanotaux to the effect that Great Britain had suggested forcing the Dardanelles and seizing the Sultan.

THE REBELLION IN THE PHILIPPINES.

The *Hongkong Daily Press* prints the following telegram, sent to it by Señor Navarro, the Spanish Consul at Hongkong:—

Manila, 14th February.

His Excellency the Governor-General of the Philippines leaves to-day to personally assume command, as General-in-Chief, of the military operations in the province of Cavite.

On Saturday we received from Señor D. H. de Uriarte, the Spanish Consul-General here, the following official telegram:—

Manila, 19th February.

The first part of the operations under the personal direction of Captain General Polavieja, the army and navy acting in concert, was successfully carried out with the taking of Silang (province of Cavite) at a small loss to the government forces notwithstanding the great strength of the rebels' defensive works, the national flag being hoisted this morning at 11.30 on the convent buildings amidst the cheering and enthusiasm of the troops.

(From *Tongking Papers*.)

Paris, 5th February.

Several villages have been burnt in the course of the disturbances round Canea.

6th February.

The Mahomedans of Canea have attacked the Christians in the streets. It is believed that the victims number three hundred.

A part of the town has been fired. Foreign seamen have been landed to extinguish the conflagration.

7th February.

A lively agitation is in progress in Greece for the union of Crete.

8th February.

The fire at Canea has been got under. Several villages in the environs have been burnt.

9th February.

The Cretan insurgents have proclaimed a union with Greece.

Troubles continue in various parts.

5th February.

The Chamber has adopted the Sugar Bill.

7th February.

The Hamburg strike has come to an end.

The British steamer *City of Sota* (?) has foundered off the coast of Spain. A large number of persons were drowned.

THE PLAGUE IN INDIA.

Plague has broken out at Candahar. The Russians have established a military cordon on the Amu Daria.

8th February.

The French mission appointed at the request of China for the direction of the Foochow Arsenal has left France.

(From the *Comercio*.)

PLAGUE IN PERSIA.

Madrid, 5th February.

Bubonic plague has made its appearance in Persia.

(From the *Diario de Manila*.)

26th January.

The Spanish troops have had several victories over the rebels in Cuba. The rebels are being beaten every day.

Spain has joined officially the Congress of Hygiene convoked by Italy to adopt measures providing against the introduction of the bubonic plague.

CONFIDENCE.

Public opinion in Spain awaits without impatience the early triumph of her arms in Cavite.

THE PLAGUE IN EUROPE.

In Marseilles 20 suspicious cases have been registered.

The Director of Sicawei Observatory reports, Friday, 19th February, 10 a.m.

—*State of the atmosphere on the 18th.*—The high pressures are entering the Sea of Japan and spreading up to Vladivostok. Moderate gradient descending down to the Pacific, usual monsoon in the S. Snow set in falling at about 6.30 p.m.—*State on the morning of the 19th.*—The barometer falls, but stands considerably above the average. Heavy snowfall throughout the night.

Probabilities, 5 p.m.—Pressure remaining high in the W., and decreasing very rapidly in Japan. There are prospects of having fine weather again. Moderate N.W. breezes over the N. coast, and normal N.E. monsoon in the S.—Saturday, 20th February, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 19th.*

Two centres of high pressures, one to the N. of Hankow, the other in the Inland Sea of Japan. Area of low pressures to the S.E. of the Loochoo Islands. An important centre of low pressures passes near Tomsk, travelling E. *State on the morning of the 20th.*—The barometer rises slowly at Shanghai; fine and cold weather. Sunday, 21st February, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 20th.*—The high pressures are stationary between the Yangtze and the Yellow River; the barometer has fallen rapidly over the whole of Japan. The Siberian depression makes itself felt at the stations of N. China. Ordinary monsoon in the S. *State on the morning of the 21st.*

—The barometer, above the average, falls slightly at Shanghai. Milder weather. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—The high pressures are spreading over the W. of Japan. Milder and more changeable weather. Light variable breezes over the N. coast; moderate N.E. monsoon in the S.—Monday, 22nd February, 10 a.m. *State of the atmosphere on the 21st.*—Pressure falls over China and rises at Japan; the maximum remains, however, between Shanghai and Chefoo. Ordinary monsoon in the S. The area of low pressures is stationary over Siberia. *State on the morning of the 22nd.*—The barometer is still falling at Shanghai, but stands above the average; it falls also at Vladivostok.

Probabilities, 5 p.m.—Overcast and unsettled weather, owing to the depression spreading over the N. of China. Light variable winds over the N. coast; moderate monsoon in the S.—Tuesday, 23rd February, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 22nd.*—The maximum remains between Shanghai and Chefoo but decreases in intensity. Rather rapid fall of the barometer in Siberia, moderate monsoon in the S. *State on the morning of the 23rd.*—The barometer, in the neighbourhood of the average, falls and is very unsteady at Sicawei. —*Probabilities 5 p.m.*—Fine and mild

weather, but still variable on account of the low pressures over the N. coast. Very variable breezes, but local calm and fog over the N. coast; and light monsoon, or even temporary interruption of the monsoon, in the S.—Wednesday, 24th February, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 23rd*—The depression from Siberia has spread over Mongolia and the N. of China. Maximum of pressures at the mouth of the Yangtze. The barometer falls everywhere in the W. and S.W. down to Hongkong. *State on the morning of the 24th*—The barometric fall continues at Sicawei. Overcast, misty, and calm weather.—*Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Continuation of unsettled weather owing to a depression over Mongolia, and the relatively high pressures to the S.W. of Japan. Very unsteady breezes veering gradually from S. and S.W. to N.W. over the N. coast, and temporary interruption of the monsoon in the S.—Thursday, 25th February, 10 a.m.—*State of the atmosphere on the 24th*—The high pressures have moved towards the S. of Corea and S.W. of Japan. The northern depression remains far off and appears to advance N.E. The monsoon is interrupted along the S. coast. *State on the morning of the 25th*—Barometer rising slowly at Shanghai with overcast and calm weather. *Probabilities, 5 p.m.*—Changeable, but rather fine weather owing to the increasing high pressures in the N.W. Moderate N. to N.W. winds over the N. coast; the N.E. monsoon will set in again in the Formosa Channel.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK.

(Thermometers in the open air in a shaded situation in the English Settlement.)

1897.					
		Fahr. Thermometer.		Rainfall	
		Min.	Max.	in inches.	
Feb.	19	31° 0	37° 6	0.36	(snow)
"	20	28° 1	39° 7	.....	.....
"	21	33° 0	42° 8	.....	.....
"	22	34° 1	47° 1	.....	.....
"	23	33° 0	51° 0	.....	.....
"	24	38° 6	49° 0	.....	.....
"	25	41° 0	54° 7	.....	.....

1896.					
		Fahr. Thermometer.		Rainfall	
		Min.	Max.	in inches.	
Feb.	19	39° 0	48° 6	.....	.....
"	20	31° 0	45° 9	.....	.....
"	21	29° 6	44° 1	.....	.....
"	22	35° 2	41° 2	0.26	.....
"	23	38° 9	47° 0	0.17	.....
"	24	42° 0	50° 7	.....	.....
"	25	41° 0	55° 2	0.03	.....

WE are glad to hear from Peking that social harmony is completely restored in diplomatic circles there, the members of the French and Russian legations who resigned some time since having rejoined the Peking Club.

BARON VON ROSEN, the new Russian Minister to Japan, was formerly Secretary of Legation at Tokio, leaving that post on promotion to Washington in 1883.

MR. GEORGE MCBAIN left this port for Langkat by the *Lyemmoon* on Sunday.

COLLECTIONS were taken in Union Church on Sunday for the Indian Famine Fund. The amount contributed was \$510 and Tls. 20. In addition, the Sunday School gave \$70.

At the last Regular Meeting of the Doric Lodge, 1433 C.C., Chinkiang, on the 6th instant, Wor. Bro. S. Rosenbaum, I.P.M. of the Doric Lodge, was presented with a P.M. jewel as a token of regard and brotherly esteem, for his successful services rendered to the Lodge and prosperous year of office for the year 1896. The jewel was made to order by Messrs. Hirsbrunner & Co., of Shanghai, and was much admired by one and all of the brethren present for its beauty and artistic design. The jewel was presented by Wor. Bro. Thos. William Bowen, on behalf of all the members of the Lodge.

A MEETING was held in the Royal Asiatic Society's Hall on Saturday evening, to discuss the recent action of the Educational Committee of the Public School with regard to the admission of Eurasian children. Mr. Brodie Clarke presided, and a large number of residents were present, but as at the outset all representatives of the Press were requested to withdraw from the meeting, we are unable to give any report of the proceedings.

THE Mercantile Marine Officers' Ball at the Astor Hall last night was very largely attended, and was a triumphant success.

THE St. Patrick's Society have decided to have no formal celebration of the Saint's Day, the 17th of March, this year.

THE Rugby match played on Wednesday between the Shanghai Football Club and a team representing the P. & O. S. N. Co. and M.S. *Plover*, resulted in a win for the home team by three goals and a try to nil.

At a meeting of the Shanghai Yacht Club, held yesterday afternoon, it was decided to form a class for small boats of one design. The approved model allows of the boat measuring 24ft. over all, with 16ft. water-line and 7ft. beam, drawing 10 inches of water without, 6ft. with, centreboard, and carrying 400ft. of canvas. The boats, which will be built in Hongkong, will cost \$400. They are expected to become very popular, and as the prizes will be awarded on the points won during the season, there will be every inducement to owners to compete in each race.

It will no doubt have been noticed that owing to the great rise in copper cash and other causes, the accounts for 1896 of that most useful Institution, the Hongkew Coffee House and Reading Room show a very considerable and lamentable deficit. It has now been arranged to give on the 6th of March next, a musical and dramatic entertainment with a view of raising a sufficient sum to square the accounts of the Institution, and the promises of assistance that have already been received make it certain that the entertainment will be one of the most attractive of the season.

MR. ROBERT CRANE, of No. 46, Sharsted Street, Kennington Park, London, asks our assistance, and that of the Press generally in the Far East, in tracing his brother Mr. W. Crane, from whom he has not heard since 1864, when he wrote that he was about to settle in Shanghai.

H.E. WU TING-FANG, Minister-designate to the United States, etc., went from Hongkong to Canton on the 11th instant in a Chinese gunboat to pay a visit to the high provincial authorities in the latter city. H.E. was received at the jetty with full official honours.

YONG TAOTAI, the Superintendent of the new Science College of Nanking, is now here to collect students for that institution where young Chinese may now learn English and Western sciences and mathematics. The present intention is to teach only 120 students.

EX-TAOTAI HUANG of this port left for his home in Kiangsi on Tuesday escorting his late mother's remains to the family burial-ground in that province. The funeral cortege was on a grand scale commensurate with the dignity and rank of Mr. Huang who had been both acting Judge and acting Treasurer at Soochow during the last three years.

THE Hangchow Customs will henceforth collect import duty on opium for the whole province of Chékiang, with the exception of Ningpo and the districts under its jurisdiction, in which latter case the duty will be collected by the Ningpo Customs. Five thousand chests *per annum* is the limit of supply for the nine prefectures of Chékiang.

ELECTRIC light machinery has arrived at Hangchow, bought through a foreign firm at this port. As the capital for the new Electric Light Company, amounting to Tls.

30,000, has not been all subscribed the Manager, Mr. Lu, has not been able to buy the larger machinery for lighting the streets of Hangchow, as was intended. With the stock on hand therefore, the new company will only supply light to private consumers.

H.E. MA EX-PEI, Provincial Judge-elect of Hupeh, who is staying in a Chinese hotel on Shantung Road, *en route* for audience at Peking, was the victim of a theft on Monday night, in which a quantity of official and ordinary fur garments, money and personal jade and gold ornaments are reported to have been lost. The theft was reported at once to Mr. Huang, the Shanghai Magistrate, who came in person to make an examination of H.E.'s room and surroundings in the hotel.

INFORMATION has come from Nanking that the Viceroy has at last recognised the serious nature of the Bennertz claim, and is anxious to know why he cannot get back his steamers and what is to be the fate of the *Ningchow*, which is still at Hongkong; he is accordingly detaining at Nanking the three officials who chartered the steamers to Bennertz & Co., and insists on their bringing the dispute to a speedy termination.

THE native officials in charge of the construction of the Shanghai-Woosung Railway have decided to begin work on the old site of the Woosung Railway, commencing from the sixth boundary stone of the Hongkew settlement and ending at Kangwan, about four miles from Hongkew. This will be the first section of the new railway, pending the arrival of materials, etc., from abroad. Work is scheduled to commence on Saturday.

H.E. VICEROY Liu of Nanking is expected to visit Shanghai some time at the beginning of summer to review the territorial army in this section of Kiangsu province. The troops in the native city, Kiangnan arsenal, and points along the route to Sungkiang, where the Provincial Commander-in-Chief T'an Pi-li has his headquarters, began drilling for the grand inspection on Sunday last. A new feature in this year's inspection will be the almost exclusive use of the rifle in place of the antiquated bow and arrow. Where the bow is used it will only be as a test of physical strength on the part of the user.

THE valuable sables and fur robes, etc., stolen from H.E. Ma, Provincial Judge-elect of Hupeh, while staying in a native hotel in Shantung Road, as already noted in these columns, were eventually discovered pledged in two pawnshops in the French concession. The successful finder was Tsin Shao-ching, one of the oldest and most able of the native detectives in our police force. The Provincial Judge is reported as having been more than pleased at this speedy recovery of his stolen property and was very much impressed by the smartness of our municipal detective force. H.E. we are told, has signified his intention of granting a suitable reward to the successful detective.

OWING to the richness of the lead and iron ores found in the vicinity of Maluk'eng and Chiencholing, two hills in the district of Fenghua, prefecture of Ningpo, a native syndicate has recently been formed to buy these mineral producing hills and an appeal has in the meanwhile been sent to Governor Liao at Hangchow for permission to open the mines. It appears some person tried to do this a few years back but was frustrated by the opposition of the inhabitants of Fenghua, on the excuse of spoiling the *fengshui* of the district. But since the late war these opinions have undergone a mighty change similar to the experience of the inhabitants of other provinces in China, and amongst the most eager now to open the Fenghua mines are the inhabitants themselves. The Rescript of the Governor is therefore anxiously waited for by all concerned.

We had lately received news from Peking to the effect that Wu Jim-pah, ex-Comptroller of a foreign bank in Tientsin, and later known as Wu Mao-ting since becoming a mandarin, had been denounced by a Censor, and dismissed from his post of Director of the North-China Railway, and that Chang Chen-ch'i, lately appointed Manager of the Tientsin Division of the proposed Peking-Hankow Railway had been appointed to the former post. For lack of confirmatory reports we refrained from noting the occurrence. Telegrams, however, have been received at the Railway Headquarters here confirming our news, and also giving the name of the denouncing Censor as Sun Ch'ao-hua, who is said to have denounced not only Wu alone, but also some dozen or so sub-managers and heads of departments of the railway in question. A strict investigation has been ordered by the Throne, which has also given its consent to a proposition of the Censor to incorporate the North China Railway with the new Peking-Hankow Railway on the ground that, with a paying concern at its back, shares in the new railway can more easily be placed than if standing on its own merits.

A riot against some Imperial postmen of Chinkiang while distributing mail in Yangchow is reported to have occurred on the 10th instant. Yangchow is opposite Chinkiang, the two cities being divided from each other by the Yangtze and some miles of land. On the 9th instant two Chinkiang postmen were despatched to cross the river and distribute mail which had arrived at that port destined for Yangchow. Not being very well acquainted with the geography of the last named city with its hundreds of obscure lanes, etc., the Imperial postmen put up with the mail bags at an inn, and then engaged a former employé of one of the local private postal agencies to assist them in delivering the mail. All went well on the 9th, but the news getting abroad, a large number of the private agency postmen got together on the evening of the 10th and marched in a body to the Shunho inn where the Chinkiang postmen had put up, and at once attacked the latter, using them and their assistant quite roughly, robbing them also of over a hundred letters which had not yet been delivered. After about an hour's rioting the mob scattered, leaving the two unlucky Imperial postmen half dead. The next day (11th) the assistant, who it appeared had not been so roughly used, got a boat and crossed over to Chinkiang to report the affair to the Commissioner of Customs, who at once telegraphed to Viceroy Liu at Nanking, and then communicated with Lü Taotai about taking steps to punish the riotous private agency postmen. A deputy, Mr. Ts'ao, went over to Yangchow on the 14th to make investigations, and it is intended to take the bull by the horns and make an example of the discontented private agencies and their employés, who it also appears had gone on strike soon after the opening of the Imperial Post on China New Year's Day.

The *Graphic* received on Monday contains a portrait of Mrs. Carew.

The last number of the London *World* mentions a very pretty waltz, *Alameda*, recently published, composed by Miss E. Russell Roberts. We have had the pleasure of hearing this waltz in a private ball-room in Shanghai, and can fully confirm the favourable verdict of "R.S.H." in the *World*, for it is a very pretty and melodious composition, with much variety in it, a great and by no means always present attraction in a waltz.

The following express was issued by the Telegraph Companies on Monday:—Owing to heavy snowstorms in Japan, Japanese traffic will be subject to a considerable delay.

The following express was issued by the Telegraph Companies on Tuesday:—

Japanese landlines are again in working order.

A BURGLAR entered the house of a rich landlord in Soochow last week and carried away \$300 in cash. As a hint that it would be dangerous to search for the robber, the man stuck a dagger in a table in the room which he had visited.

ABOUT 150 factory girls belonging to the Yüchin cotton yarn mills of Yangtzepoo, went on strike for higher wages on Monday, and finding their demands unnoticed by the mill owners, attempted to create a disturbance at the mill gates. The prompt arrest, however, of two of the ringleaders of the strike made the rest pause in their demonstration and eventually disperse quietly.

THE young owner of a large exchange shop on North Soochow Road, having lately entered upon a career of extravagance, was on Monday reproved by his widowed mother for his conduct. For an answer, the young man committed suicide by taking raw opium. When the widow saw this, she was so grief-stricken at the consequence of her words, that she also committed suicide immediately after the son's death.

S. C. FARNHAM AND CO., LD.'s, barque *Drumelton* arrived at New York on Thursday, after a fine voyage of 119 days from Shanghai, including the time occupied in taking in 1,300 tons of cargo in Amoy.

THE U.S.M. steamer *China* arrived at San Francisco on the 18th inst. two days in advance of schedule time.

THE M.M. steamer *Ernest Simons*, with the French mail of the 30th of January, left Singapore for Shanghai on Monday at 6 a.m.

THE *Gaelic*, with the incoming U.S. mail, arrived at Yokohama on the 21st inst.

THE R. M. S. *Empress of Japan* arrived at Hongkong on Tuesday at 8.30 a.m.

THE U.S.M. steamer *Coptic* left Hongkong on Wednesday at 2 p.m. and is expected to arrive at Woosung to-morrow.

THE silk which left Shanghai on the 23rd ultimo per R.M.S. *Empress of China* arrived in New York on the 22nd instant.

THE Austrian Lloyd steamer *Maria Valerie* left Hongkong for Shanghai at 5 p.m. on Tuesday.

THE *Echo du Tonkin* learns from a correspondent in Yunnan, that the episcopal palace of the Catholic Mission of Yunnan, at Yunnan Sen, had been attacked by Chinese, and Father Gorostazu and two native Christians had been seriously wounded. M. Leduc, French Consul, had gone to Yunnan Sen to interview the Viceroy as to certain mining concessions for which French Companies had applied, and would no doubt at the same time regulate the matter of the attack on the Catholic Mission.

THE following notes are from the *Foochow Echo* of the 20th instant:—

The Chinese Company controlling the launches now running on the river, offers free passage to all missionaries travelling on its boats. As this is done without solicitation on the part of the missionaries, it may be accepted as indicative of appreciation of their work on the part of the Directors of the Company. Special thanks are due to the members of the Liu family, who are its principal shareholders.

The following are the comparative figures of the deliveries of China Congou from the London bonded warehouses for the seven months, say, from 1st of June to 31st of December in each year.

1890	37,892,000 lbs.
1891	32,738,000 "
1892	25,415,000 "
1893	23,042,000 "
1894	17,841,000 "
1895	18,198,000 "
1896	15,543,000 "

The falling-off is certainly not so rapid as it was, but it is evident that even the present unprecedented low range of prices, now current in London for China Congous, is inefficient to arrest it altogether. Our only hope for the future lies in the prospect of the new method of making tea proving successful. If in addition to such success, if realised, the Chinese would only awake to the fact that a reduction of the Export duty, made at once, would be to their own interest in the long run, the tea trade might yet again flourish as of yore.

We have received Hongkong papers to the 20th inst.—Lord Ashburton's yacht *Venetia* arrived at Singapore on the 4th inst, en route to Batavia, with a distinguished party on board.—The leading merchants of Canton held a meeting on the 12th to consider the inconveniences of the new postal law, and determined to petition the Viceroy on the subject.—John Peterson, a ship-broker, drowned himself while suffering from depression, in Victoria Bay, Hongkong, on the 13th.—The Hon. F. A. Cooper, head of the Public Works Department in Hongkong, has been appointed Director-General of Public Works in Ceylon.—Carpentier, an employé at the Fourane coal mines, practically disappeared after exploding a dynamite cartridge in his mouth. He was previously off his head.—There is a hope of recovering the French steamer *Canton*.—A medium-sized tiger was seen and shot at near Kowloon reservoir on the 14th.—The *Hongkong Daily Press* in a leading article on the 17th animadverts very strongly, and justly, on the conduct of Mr. Lowder and Mr. Troup in the matter of the charge brought against Miss Jacob. Mr. Troup's conduct throughout is inexplicable, and shows the danger of giving the position of assistant judge to a man who has not common sense to compensate in some way for his lack of legal training.—The telegram we published on the 17th as to the opening of the West River is confirmed. The other port to be opened is probably Shuihing.—News had been received of the death at home of the youngest daughter of Sir John W. Carrington, Chief Justice, in her 13th year.—The Home Government is prepared to contribute £159,000, or half the cost, towards the construction of a large graving dock at Colombo.—Señor Horta e Costa, Governor of Macao, left Macao for Lisbon on the 16th, having been recalled by wire. His recall is greatly regretted at Macao.—The *Hongkong Telegraph* of the 15th has sketches of the Harris Starting Gate.—Dr. G. E. Morrison, the "Australian in China," and *Times* correspondent, arrived at Hongkong from Bangkok on the 18th.—The *Eolus* was to sail for England on Saturday.—H.M.S. *Hart* made 24 knots on a trial run at Hongkong on the 18th.—M. Doumer, the new Governor-General of French Indo-China, arrived at Saigon with his family and staff by the *Melbourne*.—The China Merchants' new steamer *Anping*, from home, lost her propeller outside Hongkong, and was towed in by the *Fame*.—Mr. James Bibby, the well-known ship-owner, died at Shrewsbury on the 8th ult.—Bad weather was the sole cause of the long voyage of the *Melbourne* to Hongkong.—The captain of the P. & O. steamer *Borneo* was fined \$100 and the pilot \$25 at Penang for bringing the steamer into harbour limits with small-pox on board.—The steamer *Khedive*, aground off Porebunder, is expected to break up where she lies.

THE following appears in the Hongkong Government Gazette of 13th February:—

Regulations

made by the Governor under section 10 of "The Post Office Ordinance 1887."

Transmission of Chinese Correspondence.

Addendum to Regulation No. 3.

3 (a)—Newspapers, samples, and parcels, which must not be enclosed in the same bag of letters but in bags bearing the dis-

tinguishing mark "Newspapers" on the address label, will be charged postage at the rate of 2 cents per 2 oz.

THE serious attempt to improve the hotel accommodation of Nagasaki, which is about to be made by the formation of the Nagasaki Hotel, Limited, will have the approval of the many travellers who have experienced its inadequacy, and will, no doubt, meet its reward in satisfactory dividends. If good management, the first requirement in hotels, is secured, the venture should be a remunerative one, for the promoters have obtained a capital site, with a frontage of 200 feet on the Bund, next door to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and with the increasing importance of Nagasaki, patronage shall be almost unlimited. Since the war Nagasaki appears to be rapidly recovering from a period of stagnation, and with the extension of the connection with the Moji-Kumamoto railway line, the port will be even more attractive to tourists than it is at present as it will enable them to make it the headquarters of many delightful trips in Kiushiu. Residentially too, Nagasaki has several advantages, whilst the growth in the Russian colony is indicative of the progress of the Trans-Siberian railway. The capital of the company is divided into 1,300 shares of \$100 each, in instalments extending to March, next year, and the local confidence in the undertaking is evidenced by \$80,000 having been guaranteed in Nagasaki before the prospectus was issued, so that the sum available for subscription in other ports did not exceed \$50,000.

WE have received Japan papers with dates from Yokokama to the 17th, Kobe the 18th, and Nagasaki the 20th inst.—The Emperor of Japan had recovered and the Empress was expected to be shortly convalescent.—The first number of the *Japan Times*, a daily paper to be published in English in Tokio by Japanese writers with foreign assistance, is to appear next month.—The Emperor has given \$15,000 to the Kioto people in connection with the recent Imperial funeral.—A telegram from Hakodate mentions the sinking of the steamer *Furu Maru*, after colliding with the *Satsuki Maru*. The passengers were saved.—The *Japan Daily Advertiser* contradicts the rumour that Mrs. Carew is to be sent to Hongkong, and says that she is undergoing medical treatment.—Judge Mowat had gone to Nagasaki to enquire into the mental condition of Mr. A. Norman, proprietor of the *Nagasaki Rising Sun*.—It is reported that the Japanese Government is seriously contemplating the adoption of the Gold Standard.—News had been received of the almost sudden death on the 10th of Dr. Hartshorne, of Tsukiji, Tokio.—Mr. Bernhardt, formerly constable of the German Consulate at Kobe, committed suicide by poison on the 12th.—The German Minister to Japan leaves for home shortly, but his departure has no connection with the ridiculous charge made against him by the Japanese students.—The College of Agriculture in the Imperial University at Tokio, was almost wholly destroyed by fire on the 12th.—The Yokohama Specie Bank contemplates establishing agencies at Amoy and Singapore.—A document was being generally signed in Yokohama calling the British Minister's attention to the official irregularities committed in reference to the trial of Mrs. Carew, and the charge against Miss Jacob.—The *Nagasaki Shipping List* speaks highly of the Industrial Exhibition of Kiushiu and Okinawa now open at Nagasaki, a ticket for which has been courteously sent us by the Committee.—A dead whale, said to measure 108 feet in length, floated ashore on the 6th on the coast of Niigata, and was sold by the lucky fishermen for \$200.—The *Japan Mail* says that the success the present Cabinet is obtaining in the Diet is as remarkable as it was unexpected.—The machinery, plant, etc.,

of the Japan Camphor Co, were sold by auction at Kobe on the 17th for \$7,000 to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.—All but 120 shares in the new Nagasaki Hotel Co. have been locally subscribed.—A native paper, the *Nippon*, says that Mrs. Carew had endeavoured to poison herself in the British gaol at Yokohama.—It is proposed to stop the coinage of silver in Japan "after a certain date."

FROM Japan papers received yesterday we learn that the fund for Miss Jacob closed at \$2,500 from 77 subscribers.—Mr. Lowder has again completely withdrawn all allegations of every kind against Miss Jacob.—The recent release of convicts has necessitated the increase of the police.—The interport football match at Yokohama was won by Yokohama making four goals to Kobe's nil in six inches of snow.—There was a serious earthquake at Yokohama on the 20th.—The King of Corea removed on the 20th from the Russian Legation to the Meirei palace.

THE Government of India have decided to place the steamers of the North German Lloyd line on the same footing as those of the Peninsular and Oriental and certain other companies, in respect to military officers travelling by such steamers, being exempted from the usual penalty attached to their overstaying furlough or leave out of India, by reason of any delay in the arrival of the vessel in which they return to India, provided they take their passage in a steamer timed to arrive within the period of their furlough or leave. The grant of this concession to the North German Lloyd line is provisional for one year, and subject to the punctual sailing and arrival at their destination of the steamers on advertised dates.

WE learn from the *London and China Express* of the 15th ult. that Capt. the Hon. H. Lambton is to commission the magnificent cruiser *Powerful* for the China Station.—Baron von Czikann has been appointed Austro-Hungarian Minister to China.—Mr. E. E. Henderson, eldest son of Dr. Edward Henderson, of Shanghai, was married to Miss H. F. Sharpe on the 12th ult.

THE following notes are from the *London and China Express* of the 15th ult. :—

The Silver market is steady. The price of bars has remained unaltered since the 7th inst. The supply has been fairly good, and business has taken place at both above and below the quoted figure—viz., 29 11-16d. Mexican dollars have slightly fallen in price, but are still in good demand. The last quotation was 29 3-16d.

In the Tea Market, with business actively resumed, the large auctions (of Indian over 50,000 packages) have passed with much fairness for all grades of Tea with quality. Common Indian shows no improvement, and with a large supply of Ceylon and of China appears to satisfy any requirements, though the large blending firms use it freely. The full supplies from Ceylon now begin to take the place of the Indian article. The bulk of China Tea now available is of indifferent character (really good is in small supply), and, in a measure, is the reason it does not make greater headway; still the consumption of late is a little more than, say, against last year about the same time.

The new P. and O. *Candia* started on her maiden voyage on the 9th inst. She is 450ft. long and 52ft. beam, her gross tonnage being 6,000, and carrying capacity of about 8,000 tons. She was built by Messrs. Caird and Co., of Greenock, and her first few trips will be to China and Japan, but she will subsequently go on the Australian line, proceeding very probably *via* the Cape of Good Hope. She constitutes a departure, in so far as the P. and O. Company is concerned, as she is the first twin-screw vessel constructed for the company.

Commenting upon the orders for warships given by China in Germany, the

Figaro of the 12th of January says that Great Britain will soon receive her share of orders, and expresses a hope that France will also shortly be in the same position. The French Mission charged to reorganise the arsenal at Foochow, of which M. Doyre, second-class naval engineer, is the chief, will leave immediately for China. The *Figaro* hopes that France will be able to take advantage of her privileged position, which proves that France still possesses great influence in the Far East.

The *Radical Jour*, speaking of the interview with Baron de Courcel, French Ambassador to Great Britain, published in the *London Times*, predicts an alliance with England, and says in this connection: "All the living strength of the country should be perpetually enlisted against Germany, which is ever on the alert. Such an understanding is by no means impracticable in itself. British public opinion is far from having forgotten the attitude of William II at the time of the Jameson incident. Ground for mutual reconciliation can be found very easily, both in London and Paris. We should thus be the natural mediators between Russia and England, and this formidable Triple Alliance would dictate laws to the world."

Mr. William Waldorf Astor has taken the oath of allegiance to Queen Victoria. Commenting upon this statement, the *Philadelphia Inquirer* says:—"Having selected England as his home, he has done right to give in his allegiance to Her Majesty, as foreigners who come to the United States to live do right when they become naturalised here. We do not share the views of those persons who regard Mr. Astor's action as in the nature of a national calamity. This country does not need men who do not rate it above all others, and who would not rather live here than anywhere else in the world." The *Inquirer* adds that Mr. Astor has "burned all of the bridges," including the financial one, which bound him to New York.

The *Paris Temps* has a lengthy article dealing with the projected railways in China, recapitulating much of the news in connection with this subject which has been current during the last few months. In concluding, the writer states that if the Peking-Hankow line is made, it is not to be expected that the great European industrial establishments will leave all the rich prey to American enterprise. Just so. What we shall see will probably be a judicious international partition of the good things. What will happen may possibly be a repetition of what now exists on the northern line to Taku. There we see something like this: American locomotives hauling English rolling stock over rails furnished by Germany, and across bridges constructed by France. In the end we shall see Americans, British, Germans, Russians, Japanese, and French alike ousted by their Chinese auxiliaries, as is the way with commerce at the open ports.

The P. and O. steamer *Nubia* arrived in Plymouth Sound from Calcutta, with a detachment of the North Lancashire Regiment, and it was reported that cases of cholera had occurred among the troops a few days after the vessel had touched at Port Said. Two deaths occurred on January 2nd and 6th, and a sergeant of the regiment died of the disease on the 9th inst. Another man, who was attacked on the 2nd of January, is now convalescent, but a fourth death occurred on the night of the 9th. There have also been some cases of suspicious diarrhoea. The *Nubia* has been stationed near the breakwater, clear of all other shipping, and communication with the shore was strictly forbidden, though a few persons, who were medically certified to be in good health, were allowed to land. Their luggage, however, was detained for disinfection. The outbreak, it was suggested by those on board the vessel was due to fruit and vegetables taken on board at Port Said, but a

Reuter telegram from that place, states that there has been no cholera in Egypt since September, and that Port Said was almost free from the disease even when the late epidemic was at its worst. At a Meeting of the Town Council, the Mayor announced that Dr. Bulstrode was perfectly satisfied with the arrangements made for coping with the outbreak of cholera. There was nothing to create the slightest feeling of alarm in the minds of the public. As there were no indications of further cases of cholera on the 12th inst., the whole of the troops were landed and conveyed to Fort Staddon, where they will be kept under observation for the present. The women and children were allowed to proceed to their homes. The vessel was thoroughly fumigated, and left in the afternoon for Gravesend. The eight patients on board the hospital ship are making good progress towards recovery.

From the *London and China Express* of the 22nd ult., we learn that the Chinese Minister in London had subscribed £100 to the Indian Famine Fund, which amounted at that date to £120,000.—The Czar, who is in perfect health, had ordered collections for the Famine Fund to be made in Russia.—Sir Frederick Bedford, it is reported, is to succeed Admiral Buller.

The following items are from Indian exchanges:—Owing to the present exceptional state of affairs in Bombay, the Committee have decided not to hold the Bombay Horse Show this year, which had been fixed for March.—The Viceroy's gold medal at the annual photographic exhibition in Calcutta, has been won by a lady exhibitor from America, Miss E. V. Clarkson.—The Indian tea trade has been very prosperous during the past year. Reports for the nine months ending on the 31st of December, showed an export of 128 million pounds, being an increase of 9 million pounds as compared with the corresponding period in the preceding year. The trade with America rose from 1 million to 2½ million pounds.—Four of the Madras Race Stewards, Colonel Moore, Mr. Irwin, Mr. Powell, and Mr. Campbell, have filed a suit in the High Court against the editor and proprietors of the *Madras Mail*, from whom they each claim Rs. 5,000 as damages alleged to be sustained, by the publication in that paper on the 27th of November last of a letter entitled "The Madras Race Club" and signed "Madrassee" which they regard as defamatory.

REUTER'S agent at St. Petersburg sends to the London papers the following translation of an article which appeared in the *Novosti* on the 4th ult. :—

"If England and Russia are now again confronted by the necessity of solving the Eastern Question, their present relations differ sensibly from what they were on the eve of the Crimean War and after the last Russo-Turkish campaign, for in those times neither Lord Palmerston nor the Earl of Beaconsfield disguised his hostility towards Russia, while now the Marquis of Salisbury and the British Government show a disposition to act in concert with her. The German papers may speak of universal rivalry between England and Russia; but where does it exist? Not in the domain of commerce, as there no comparison can be established between Great Britain's immense merchant fleet and that of Russia which is barely in its infancy. Nor does it exist in regard to Constantinople which has lost its importance as the world's centre since the piercing of the Suez Canal. Even if Russia were led by the course of events to seize Constantinople she would certainly not make it her capital, and the city would simply become one more Russian port, regarding which it would not be worth while to go to war. British contemporary politicians have become completely disabused of the traditional prejudices entertained by Lord Palmerston and Lord Beaconsfield, and

they regard the prospective partition of Turkey in a calm and practical manner, divested of any false sentiment. We may not agree that the time for this partition has yet arrived, but there is no cause for entering into a conflict with Great Britain on a question which can be settled by common accord. Great Britain and Russia have each their own special interests to safeguard, which circumstance should deter them from engaging in a conflict that would be mainly to the profit of Germany, which from selfish motives is clearly seeking to embroil them. The Eastern Question will cease to be a danger to European peace when Russia, England, and France arrive at an understanding regarding its real bearing, and take it up from a thoroughly practical standpoint. It would suffice to hand over the Balkan Peninsula to the Balkan people (not to Austria), in order to effect a settlement of the most essential part of the Eastern Question. As to the questions of Asia Minor and Egypt, these could be settled by a joint understanding between Russia, Great Britain, and France. Finally, the matter of the Dardanelles should be equitably adjusted to Russia's advantage, Constantinople being declared a free port."

In its issue of the 8th ultimo the *Financial News* publishes the following :—

In our issue of the 30th of October there appeared, under "Voice of the Public," a letter signed "Expert," in which it was alleged: (a) That the Apollinaris Water sold by the Apollinaris Company Limited, is not a genuine mineral water; (b) that the Government of the United States had treated it as an artificial or manufactured water; and (c) that in an action commenced by that Government, the proprietors of Apollinaris Water were condemned to pay a fine of many millions. This letter was inserted inadvertently during the temporary absence of the Editor, and we desire to express our regret for its publication. We are satisfied that the Apollinaris Water sold by the Apollinaris Company is the natural product of the Apollinaris Spring in Germany, and that the allegations of our correspondent are absolutely false and without foundation. In the United States, where there was a heavy and almost prohibitive Customs duty on artificial mineral water, while natural mineral waters were admitted free of duty, the United States Government was induced by trade rivals of the Apollinaris Company to investigate whether Apollinaris Water should be classified in the former category. After full and independent investigation, during which the Government sent its own experts to the Apollinaris Spring in Germany, to examine and report upon the spring and the process of bottling Apollinaris Water, the Secretary of the Treasury published a decision which declared Apollinaris Water to be a natural mineral water and, as such, entitled to entry free of duty into the United States. This decision has since been repeatedly confirmed. Under these circumstances we unreservedly withdraw our correspondent's statements, and regret having published them.

THE *Scientific American* has the following note on the destruction of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah :—

The destruction of the oldest seats of civilisation and culture in the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea districts, namely, that of four cities of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, is one of the fixed facts of earliest tradition, and for the critical geologist the phenomenon presents no difficulty, as far as it can be traced at all. The tragedy was caused by a sudden break of the valley basin in the southern part of the Dead Sea, resulting in the sinking of the soil, a phenomenon which, without any doubt, was in intimate connection with a catastrophe in nature, or an earthquake accompanied by such a sinking of the soil along one or more rents in the

earth, whereby these cities were destroyed or "overturned," so that the Salt Sea now occupies their territory. The view that this sea did not exist at all before this catastrophe, or that the Jordan before this period flowed into the Mediterranean Sea, contradicts throughout all geological and natural science teachings concerning the formation of this whole region.

That the Pentapolis at one time was situated in the southern part of the Dead Sea, which is now called Sebcha, is proved also, among other things, by the probable location at this place of Zoar, the place which escaped destruction in the days of Lot; in accordance, too, with the writers of antiquity and of the middle ages, including the Arabian geographers. As yet nothing certain can be determined concerning the location of the four other cities, viz. Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim, of which names only that of Sodom, in Djebel Usdum, is found reflected in any place in these precincts. And even apart from geological and geographical reasons, this seems to be the natural thing, as the book of Genesis represents these places as having been thoroughly destroyed without leaving any trace or remnant behind. The fact that now these districts are a dreary waste, and by the Arabian geographer Mukaddasi called a "hill," is no evidence that in earlier times this was not different, and this valley not really a vision of paradise.

We learn from the *New York Maritime Register* that the Glen Line steamer *Glenesk*, from San Francisco, grounded while entering the harbour of Las Palmas, but was subsequently towed off, on the 10th of Jan. She was badly damaged, and the No. 5 ballast tank was full of water. Her bottom was holed and there was a leak under the stern tube. It was thought that her cargo had not been damaged.

A REPORT, says *Transport*, which received little attention at the recent meeting of the British Association at Liverpool, probably owing to the highly technical matter it contains, was prepared by a committee consisting of Prof. L. F. Vernon Harcourt, Prof. Unwin, and Mr. W. Wheeler, C. E., Boston. It has already been briefly described in *Transport*, but it warrants, I think, longer mention. It dealt with the effect of wind and atmospheric pressure on the tides. Mr. Wheeler, I may explain, was the secretary of the committee, and he it was who drew up the report. The committee selected five ports as fairly representative of the tidal conditions round the coast, and from these obtained the tidal records as well as a large quantity of other information. The information has been embodied in a series of tables, and the deductions drawn are :—

1.—That the tides are influenced both by atmospheric pressure and by the wind to an extent which considerably affects their height.

2.—That the height of about one-fourth of the tides is affected by wind.

3.—That the atmospheric pressure affecting the tides operates over so wide an area that the local indications given by the barometer at any particular port do not afford any reliable guide as to the effect on the tide at that port.

4.—That although, so far as average results go, there can be traced a direct connection between the force and direction of the wind, and the variation in the height of the tides, yet that there is so much discrepancy in the average results when applied to individual tides that no reliable formula can be established for indicating the amount of variation in the height of the tide due to any given force of wind.

5.—The results given in the tables relating to atmospheric pressure indicate that the effect of this is greater than has generally been allowed, a variation of half an inch from the average causing a variation of 15 inches in the height of the tides.

WRITING on the cause of maritime casualties, the *London Shipping World* says:—

At the close of a year of loss and disaster only second to 1895, we naturally ask ourselves what are the conditions and causes that have led to such an unfortunate result, and enquire with some solicitude whether they are chronic and permanent or temporary and evanescent.

That it is caused by a growth of unskilfulness in navigation, although the readiest reply, we do not believe, and we are supported in that opinion by the best authorities. Never, we think, were vessels sailed by a better class of masters, whether as regards their ability or care, and insobriety is scarcely known. Nor can we complain of either the build, finding, or character of vessels in the general run of them; certainly the proportion, of second or third classes to the 100 A1 is small indeed. Two conditions have, however, been, we think, too much overlooked by all whom it may concern, and especially by assurers in their estimate of the consideration to be paid for insurance—they are speed and size. With regard to the first it must be evident that both the risk of collision and wreck must be increased where a knowledge of the danger precedes by so short a period the consummation of the action taken, to say nothing, of the results of the added momentum. Of course this is intensified when the desire to make a passage is encouraged, or at least expected.

But, for several reasons, we think that the growth of size in modern vessels, is the chief element in increased disaster. When the largest merchant vessels drew their 15 to 20 ft. loaded, they could enter and leave twice the number of ports that the modern ones, drawing their 30 to 35 ft., do, and thus it stands to reason that every foot draught not only decreases available ports but increases the hidden dangers to navigation. That we are not alone in looking at this condition as a source of danger, notice the almost feverish anxiety of port and harbour authorities to deepen and widen their waterways, knowing the value of such facilities to attract shipping.

WRITING on the Arbitration Treaty between Great Britain and the United States, the *Home News* says:—

Whatever the fate of the Treaty may be, it is interesting to note the reception accorded its terms not only in England and America, but on the Continent. In Germany, the *North German Gazette* looks at it askance, and by no means admits that it is an example to be followed by other nations. On the other hand, the *Frankfurt Gazette* welcomes it as the "greatest triumph ever achieved by the friends of peace." In Austria, the Treaty is hailed as a big stride forward for humanity, and its ratification will be regarded as "the dawn of a better epoch in the relations of States." Russia's view we get, rather curiously, from America. Russia is said to be extremely jealous of the tightening of the bond between Great Britain and the United States, and will not hesitate to use her influence, whatever that may be, against the final seal being put to the compact. According to special information which the Washington correspondents of the *New York Herald* and the *London Daily Chronicle* have secured, the Russian Ambassador in the States frankly asked Mr. Olney to explain whether the Treaty was not in effect an offensive and defensive alliance with Great Britain. Mr. Olney is reported to have replied:—"The Treaty makes Great Britain our ally in the maintenance and enforcement of the Monroe doctrine." In what way a general arbitration understanding affects the Monroe doctrine we do not quite see, and Mr. Olney's remark seems the surest means of prejudicing other Powers against the Treaty. It is not without significance that well-informed correspondents argue that the Treaty will

be popular in America in proportion as it is held to further the Monroe doctrine.

UNTIL the arrival of the last mail the Blitz Dietetic System was unknown to us, but a copy of its official organ, the *Medical Reformer*, has come to hand, accompanied by the following explanatory letter:—

It has always been a most vital question for English people, as also for the natives in the different parts of the tropical countries, to know what food and drinks would be the most suitable to ingest, in order to enable them to withstand all the influences of irregularities of their system's work, and owing to this, it is to enable them to escape from fevers and pestilential effects of all kinds, as also nervous diseases, etc., etc., that we have to thank Professor Blitz for his findings that by physiological analysis, and the determination of the fermentative action of each individual, by which he is enabled to advise everybody how to feed well, make his system work well, and to feel well and have a perfect working (*sic*) system, fevers, plagues, etc., are impossible to develop.

We, the *Medical Reformer*, are proud to propagate this new science, and as this science is contrary to that of the Medical Profession by prohibiting medicines and drafts, we are put to the necessity of fighting the profession, and to force them to abstain from spoiling life and living action.

As it is possible to treat far distance, we have induced the Jaturopathic Institute to allow us to publish questions which have to be filled up by those who are in search of health, and in giving you notice and sending you the last copy for criticism, we deem it our duty to beseech you to read and communicate same through your influential paper, to your readers, and to help the community and world at large to the propagation of a most beneficial science, and of such good effect, that, we may say, has never been dreamt of as possible.

This is self-explanatory, but, however able an originator of medical systems he may be, Professor Blitz has some shortcomings as a contributor, for a note to the reader explains that he has delayed the issue by not furnishing in time "the needed copy."

REUTER told us some time ago that Baron de Courcel was retiring from the French Embassy in London, because he was disheartened by the impossibility of bringing France and England together on the questions at issue between them. We headed the telegram at the time, "A decision to be deprecated, if true," and we now find the *Home News* saying:—

Baron de Courcel on the eve of his retirement from the post of French Ambassador to England, has made a profoundly interesting statement of his views on the international outlook. His remarks should serve to accelerate the pace at which Anglo-French relations have been improving during the past year. Baron de Courcel, we are assured, sincerely regrets that domestic reasons compel his retirement at a time when diplomacy—"the science of concessions," as he epigrammatically terms it—is working steadily to confirm the *bonne entente* which began with the Siamese agreement. His Excellency pays a splendid tribute of praise to Lord Salisbury's patience and skill, and is convinced that there is not a single question pending between France and England, which will not be settled amicably and satisfactorily. Of course, there is "the everlasting Egyptian" imbroglio, and on that even Baron de Courcel is not quite convincing. He wants to know why England, in Egypt, springs decisions on the world, and confronts France with accomplished facts? "Are we not enchanted at England recovering the Soudan for Egypt?" he asks. The answer to this is, of course, obvious. Such a statement as Baron de Courcel's is, however, one to be read not by the letter, but in the spirit in which it is uttered. Not less noteworthy than Baron de Courcel's valediction is M. de Lanessan's plea in the *Rappel* for friendship between France and England. From

their respective points of view, the ex-Governor of Indo-China and the retiring Ambassador bear eloquent testimony to the reality of the Anglo-French rapprochement.

A HOME paper says that the notorious Major Lothaire has again left his country, this time for Egypt, where he is to embark for Java. Of course, he has a mission. It is to study the culture of rice, coffee, and vanilla in the Dutch colonies. The *Belgian Mail* gives the murderer of Stokes a hint which he will do well to take to heart. It advises him not to exercise his hanging propensities upon some poor plantation coolie, for the reason that he will find the Dutch authorities less complaisant than the Congo officials in the Rue de Namur.

A CORRESPONDENT writes to *The Times*:—"The development of shipping under the Japanese flag is being continued by additional orders from Japan for execution during 1897 and 1898. Not only have the Japanese Government ordered vessels of war, both in this country and in America during the last few weeks, but a very important order in connection with the Japanese mercantile marine has just been given in London. Mr. Asano, the President of the Toyo Kisen Kaishiki Kaisha, and Captain Tanaka have been in this country for some weeks for the purpose of negotiating contracts for three mail and passenger steamers of the highest class, intended to sail under the Japanese flag, and form a regular line between Yokohama and San Francisco. The vessels are to approximate to 6,000 tons gross register, and have been guaranteed to steam at least 17½ knots. They are to be propelled by twin-screws, with engines capable of developing at least 7,500-horsepower. The boilers, six in number, are to be worked by natural draught, as the Japanese Government requirements for armed cruisers and mail steamers, under which these vessels will work, demand a certain minimum speed without the assistance of forced draught. Each vessel will be capable of carrying sixty first-class passengers, besides second-class passengers and a large number of emigrants; and the passenger accommodation will be of the most luxurious character, all of it being contained in deckhouses standing upon the upper-deck, and exposed to the full advantage of the sea breezes for ventilation in hot weather, the number of passengers to be carried in each of the first-class berths being limited to two. The dining saloons will be equal in luxury to that of any British steamer on the Atlantic or Eastern routes, and each vessel will have refrigerating machinery for the preservation of the passengers' food, special lock-up, silk, and specie rooms, besides mail rooms. There will also be ladies' saloons, and what are known as bridal suites, being rooms of large size connected with each other, and intended to be let *en suite* to passengers who are willing to pay handsomely for enlarged accommodation. The vessels throughout will be lit by electricity in all the cabins and passenger accommodation, and in the crews' quarters, with overhead electric sunlights attached to the maats to enable cargo to be loaded and discharged at night. Two such vessels are to be built by Sir James Laing, and one by Messrs. Swan and Hunter, and all of them from the designs of Mr. Fortescue Flannery, M.P."

'If the blood is diseased the body is diseased.'—Remember that the blood, whether pure or impure, circulates through the organs of the human body—Lungs, Heart, Stomach, Kidneys, Brain. If it is laden with poisonous matter it spreads disease on its course. In cases of Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples, and Sores of all kinds the effects of Clarke's Blood Mixture are marvellous. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Clarke's Blood Mixture is sold everywhere at 2s. 9d. per bottle. Beware of worthless imitations and substitutes.

Miscellaneous Articles.

GOING IT ALONE.

22nd Feb.

ENGLISHMEN will read with great satisfaction the Reuter's telegram that we publish this morning, announcing that Lord Salisbury has declined to join in the German Emperor's proposal to blockade the Piræus, and prevent Greece sending reinforcements to the expedition to annex Crete. We had been somewhat afraid that Lord Salisbury would continue to sacrifice our independence of action to that pestiferous fetish, the Concert of the Powers, whose only result so far has been to allow the Sultan to indulge without interference his appetite for Christian blood. It was impossible for Greece to continue standing by as a mere spectator of the massacres that have disgraced not only the Ottomans, but all Europe that has permitted their continuance; and great as is the responsibility that Greece has undertaken in throwing down the gauntlet to Abdul Hamid, she would have been untrue to herself if she had not endeavoured at least to save the Christians in Crete. Every Englishman will sympathise with her gallantry, and hope for her success; and the shame that many of us feel at England's refusal to interfere to save the Armenians would have been felt by the whole country if Lord Salisbury had agreed to aid in restraining the Greeks. There is no compelling reason why the transfer of Crete from Turkish oppression to Greek rule should be followed by a European war; and it is neither our business nor our policy to protect Turkey until Russia is ready to absorb her. It will not be an easy matter to divide up the Turkish Empire when the time, which now seems imminent, comes; but under any circumstances Greece has a paramount claim to Crete, and there is no reason why she should not be allowed to enter into that outlying part of her inheritance at once. In July last year the Austrian Government proposed a joint blockade of the island to keep out the Greeks, but Great Britain refused to accede to the proposal and it was dropped, as we hope will be the German Emperor's proposal. It will be remembered that at least two-thirds of the population of Crete are Christians.

ROWLAND'S ODONTO—This has been known for 60 years to be the best, purest, and most fragrant tooth powder. It whitens the teeth, prevents and arrests decay, strengthens the gums, and gives a pleasing fragrance to the breath. **ROWLAND'S MACASSAR OIL** preserves and beautifies the hair, and is the best brillianine for ladies' and children's hair, as it is not too greasy or too drying. Also sold in a golden colour. Ask any chemist or perfumer for Rowland's articles, of 20, Hatton Garden, London.

THE TIENTSIN RACE CLUB.

22nd Feb.

WE publish elsewhere the report of the Annual Meeting of this flourishing Institution, and as four years ago we animadverted somewhat severely on some new departures then taken, we think it but due that we should now express our satisfaction that Tientsin sportsmen have once more come into line with the whole China coast, in certain matters which intimately concern this domain of sport. As our report points out 1896 has been a great year in the history of the Club; income has reached record figures, and the same may be said of membership and entrance fees; and above all, the Club has become the proprietor of the fine Race Course and appurtenances which it formerly rented. It now proposes to enhance its usefulness by taking upon itself some of the social functions of a Country Club as well as an Association for horseracing. The Race Course at the northern outpost is situated some three miles from the concessions, and is the only objective at which pedestrians, riders, and drivers can aim when bent on constitutional purposes; the environs of Tientsin are not rich in roads, and as a matter of fact, the one decent external thoroughfare it possesses is that leading to the Course. Hitherto another organisation, known as the Country Club, has rented the Grand Stand and track during the periods of the year when training and racing were not in vogue. This institution has now dissolved itself and has generously transferred its corporate property to the Race Club, the Stewards having undertaken to carry on all the functions. As real property is distinctly on the boom in Tientsin, we cannot but regard as satisfactory the purchase of the Course and the new social departure of the Race Club. Twice within the last month over £4,000 per *mow* have been paid for land on a 66 years' tenure: a lot of three *mow* was transferred recently at £15,000 for the bare value of the land as a building site. These prices are more than double those of five years ago, and are almost an advance of 100 per cent on those of January, 1896. Under such circumstances, to acquire a completely equipped Race Course, including an area of land, for £16,000 is a stroke of financial fortune which comes but seldom in the life-history of a Club.

Northern racing men have at last definitely and deliberately given up Chinese riders. This has been a contentious matter for years, and Homeric battles have been waged round it. When in 1893 the Club, by the casting vote of the Chairman, determined to have "one race per day, in which Chinese riders approved by the Stewards shall ride," a compromise between two such races and none, we said that we regarded the mounting of mafoos as a desperate remedy for a scarcity of gentlemen riders. "The entrance of the professional element in almost every

phase of sport, is the spore of the leprosy which soon defiles and ultimately destroys it. The codes of honour obtainable among professionals and amateurs differ greatly; but when to this the differences of race, training, and environment are added, we have an apparently irrefutable reason against committing large monetary issues to such a class as the Chinese mafoo. A stake which is a matter of indifference to a gentleman amateur, and a bribe which would evoke a horse-whipping on the part of a foreign professional, may be an entire fortune to a Chinese mafoo—who is only too frequently a gambler and in desperate need of money. Among professional riders at home in recent years, there have been many aberrations from straight riding, and we doubt if Chinese mafoos have anything like so strict a code of morals as even their Western *confrères*." These words, written four years ago, are as applicable to-day as they were then, and we are heartily glad that Tientsin has now shut down on its own innovation. After all we are not sorry that the experiment has been given a long and fair trial, as that is now established by experience, which was before only a strong presumption. We hope that not even in the scarcity of jockeys—the ostensible cause of the presence of the native rider—will the question ever be mooted again.

Our neighbours have also reduced their scale of weights to harmonise with our own. This is commendable as far as it goes, inasmuch as it tends to facilitate comparisons and to give *mehr licht* to Southern readers and purchasers; but we need hardly point out to racing men the inexpediency of basing comparison on "times" alone: soil, climate, temperature, and methods of training render such comparisons illusive, and unfortunately these elements both singly and in combination cannot be eliminated. Something is, however, gained by the change and we welcome it. The weights were put up from the increasing corpulence of the riders; and as they are now reduced, we may presume that a new supply of light weights has displaced the heavy brigade.

We see by the report that for the first time on record something akin to the welsher has vanished from the banks of the Peiho. We are happily ignorant of names and details, but we understand that a successful rider has left the Club with his Lottery Account unpaid (£250). The Club in which this is an unprecedented event is indeed a fortunate institution; but none the less should the incident not be passed over. We heartily endorse the suggestion that such gross cases of default (the man was a heavy winner in sweepstakes) should be posted and communicated to all Race Clubs in the Far East. The affinity between the best of animals and the shadiest of men is so well known that gentlemen are bound to be specially

censorious in these matters. *Descensus Averni facillimus* in racing matters, and we are all under an obligation to keep the Augean element out of the Clubs as well as the stables; it is only by Rhadamanthine severity that this can be done, and Clubs ought to help each other in this matter. Without urging its inclusion in the Rules of any Club, we should like to know that it was an understood thing up and down the Chinese littoral, that a defaulter in any port would not only be precluded from riding, but from coming on to any Course as a spectator in any other. The financial honour of racing men should be at least as unsuspected as the virtue of Cæsar's wife.

We congratulate our Northern friends on their success. May we ask them a question? Why don't they come down to Shanghai and measure themselves with us? In the sixties and seventies such things were known and well-known. We think we could guarantee them both a hearty welcome and foemen worthy of their steel, or perhaps we should say ponies and horsemen worthy of their whips.

GREECE AND CRETE.

23rd Feb.

THE proposition that Lord Salisbury makes, in order to settle for a time the Cretan question and put off the European war which it is feared must accompany the dissolution of Turkey, is that Crete should be put on the same footing as Samos, which is a principality under the sovereignty of Turkey, under the guarantee of France, Great Britain, and Russia. But the conditions are not the same. The 50,000 inhabitants of Samos are all, except 36, members of the Greek Orthodox Church, so that there is practically no religious question there. It may be doubted whether an autonomous Crete would be a peaceful one, while the Greek Government could exercise the necessary force to prevent the Christians and Mussulmans flying at each other's throats. To make Crete autonomous would be obviously only a temporary measure; Greece would always be on the look-out to annex it, and the majority of the Cretans are ready to be annexed, so that it is simpler and therefore more statesmanlike to let Greece enter into possession at once.

It will be seen with pleasure that France and Italy are in this matter on the side of Great Britain. Austria, which has the greatest reason to fear a disturbance in South-east Europe, sides with Germany; but what we want to know is, where is Russia? Her position is a difficult one; she does not want the dissolution of Turkey hastened, while the Czar is allied to the Greek royal family by the closest ties. If the Sultan is obstinate and refuses to let Crete go, there will be war in the Balkans, for which the Greek and Turkish armies are collecting on the frontier. No one can say where that war will stop when it once begins; but

the Continental Powers are so much afraid of a great war that they may, as we hope they will, unite to forbid Turkey to move, and Abdul Hamid will hardly dare to defy all the rest of Europe. Under any circumstances we look to Lord Salisbury not to allow Greek to be oppressed by Turkey or by any Continental Power.

CAN CHINA REFORM?

23rd Feb.

THE air is full of schemes for the regeneration of China. Some think that when railways are really open the thing is done; others advise other things—Universities, Armies, Fleets. China is to join the great brotherhood of armaments and take her place among the progressive nations. It seems to us, however, to be a reasonable question whether such a consummation, however devoutly to be wished, is a possible one or not. That the Chinese are in many respects a great people with many most admirable qualities and with a great future before them is not to be denied; but whether they will enjoy that future as a free people, and march, as a nation, shoulder to shoulder with other nations down the path of progress, may be questioned. In the life of the individual there comes a time when the doctor gives him up. By careful nursing his days may be prolonged, his pains assuaged, his death made easier; but no one speaks of his rising again and going forth to his labour. Cannot it be the same with a nation? Intellectually in a cataleptic state, politically, in her officialdom, a mere running sore, may it not be that China as a nation is past hope, its day of grace gone by for ever? It is falsely said that while there is life there is hope; but every hope seems to hang on an impossible if. If the patient would rouse himself, if he would submit to an operation, if the operation did not kill him, if the waiting eagles would only be patient, or even help him a little, who knows, he might recover even yet? China has but recently been sadly humiliated. If after her humiliation she were humble; if she were openly and honestly in the sight of all men setting herself to the task of reform; if even there were but a small and earnest band of men who understood and would devote life and fortune to bringing China into the right way, then we would applaud and even hope. Yet the determined purpose and the appearance of most enlightened and devoted patriots would only inspire hope, not confidence. It would still be a question whether China could bear the pains of her purging. It seems impossible that she should recover unless that cancer of hers, the corruption of the official classes, is first extirpated. But is it possible for her to go through with and survive such an operation? This is the dilemma that must trouble

every one who looks seriously at her state.

But again, even supposing she had her pure patriots, and would submit to the pains of reformation, and had strength to go through with it, it would still remain a question whether such a task was still possible for her, because she has not only to reform, but to do it without colliding with any of the mighty but highly sensitive Powers by which she is surrounded. We have seen quite recently how Japan could hardly put her head out of window before three sticks came down on it; and it is impossible to suppose that such a lumbering mass as China could move very far before offending some of her neighbours. In the spaces between cannon-balls a weak little wren may live uncrushed; and China's weakness seems safe at present between the tremendous but mutually-opposing strengths of the great nations who surround her. She will, however, hardly be able to exert the force necessary for her own reformation without coming into collision in some way with some of those Powers, without uniting two or three who were before at enmity, or without giving to them some reasonable grounds for interference in her affairs. Let it be granted that no Power wishes for more than the opening up of China, just as England had no conscious wish to possess India. Yet it may be a true instinct which leads the Chinese to exclude foreigners so long as they can; for when railways run to every city and foreign trade lays hold on every province, we may expect such complications, disputes, and injustices as will lead to various Powers interfering. There may be no Calcutta Black-hole business, and even the Tientsin and Kucheng massacres may never be repeated; but if only the way of doing business which led to war fifty years ago were continued over larger areas, and if the unsatisfactory relations which occasionally exist at every port were multiplied over the Empire, involving other Powers besides the meek English, then in spite of treaties, apologies, indemnities, and what not, the end might soon and easily come.

Thus the means she must use for reforming and strengthening herself may break her up either from within or from without. If some strong man, or group of men should appear soon, with heroic ardour that can kindle the courage of others, with a clear view of China's condition and needs, with superhuman wisdom to guide her amid the jealousies of the Powers, then China may yet as a single, independent nation hold up her head and look forward to a glorious future. But without the man, with so much to be done, with apparently no heart or intention to do it, and with so many possibilities of entanglement and mistake, it may well seem doubtful whether her regeneration except under foreign tutelage is still in the range of practical politics.

TAKING IT LYING DOWN.

25th Feb.

LONG ago Prince Bismarck described the Marquis of Salisbury as "a lath painted to look like iron." The noble Marquis has again shown the justice of the description. For a day or two he was prepared to "go it alone," keep out of the European Concert, and let Greece fight it out with Turkey for Crete. But the lath has bent, as usual, and the British ships, to our eternal disgrace, were the first to fire in the bombardment of the Cretan "insurgents." Fortunately, one party in the House, led by the man whom the Unionists are fond of stigmatising as a "Little Englander," protested against the truckling of the Government, and we hope to find that it will be supported by the country. Lord Salisbury is afraid that if we acted alone, the result would be a European war. But there is not one Continental Power that dares to begin a European war, and, as we have said before, the European Concert is a fetish. If they dare not coerce the Sultan, for fear of a European war, is it likely that they would dare to coerce England, if Lord Salisbury had the spirit to persist in "going it alone"? All the bye-elections this year have shown Liberal gains, and Lord Salisbury's recent action will not increase his popularity, but the Liberal party has no leader. Unfortunately Cromwell has no successors nowadays.

THE IMPENDING CHANGE IN THE JAPANESE CURRENCY.

25th Feb.

FOR the last five years or more there have been rumours from time to time that Japan was contemplating the adoption of the Gold Standard, and we learn from the newspapers most recently received that the question is likely to be brought before the present Diet, Count Matsukata, the present Finance Minister, one of the ablest financiers in Japan, to whom was due the recovery of the Japanese paper money from a heavy discount to par, is, it is understood, very strongly in favour of the proposed change, and he is believed to have brought the whole Cabinet over to his views. The scheme, as formulated by one of the Chief Accountants in the Department of Finance, as quoted by the *Mainichi Shimbun* and translated in the *Japan Mail*, is as follows:—

- 1.—A weight of 2.2222 *fun* of gold of 900 fineness shall be determined as the unit of Japanese currency and shall be called a *yen*.
- 2.—In the new gold coinage, the only coin shall be a twenty-*yen* piece, weighing 4.4442 *momme*, and its design shall be commemorative of the war with China.
- 3.—The minting of all gold coins other than the above shall be stopped, and those already in circulation shall be called in and re-coined.
- 4.—The gold coins now in circulation shall be exchangeable at the rate of one gold *yen* for two silver *yen*.
- 5.—The coinage of one-*yen* silver pieces to private order shall be stopped.

6.—When such a course seems necessary, the Government shall be competent to coin one-*yen* silver pieces within certain limits.

7.—The silver *yen* already in circulation shall be legal tender to an unlimited extent at the fixed ratio to gold.

8.—Convertible notes, or bank notes, shall be redeemable with either gold or silver.

9.—The *Nippon Ginko* shall direct its efforts to withdrawing the gold coins now in circulation.

10.—The *Nippon Ginko* shall take steps to change the silver bullion now kept in its vaults for gold.

11.—Prior to the enforcement of the new Currency System, a gold reserve of at least 100 million *yen* in new coins should be accumulated.

12.—The Currency Regulations, Convertible Note Regulations, and so forth, now in force shall be amended in the above sense.

This is called by the *Japan Mail* "Gold Monometallism," but it is obviously not monometallism at all, but bimetalism with a fixed ratio. This is the desire of the heart of all bimetalists, but they do not want the ratio that Japan proposes to adopt, 1 to 32. When the gold and silver *yen* were adopted in Japan, the market ratio of gold to silver was about 1 to 16; and it is now intended therefore to make one gold *yen* equal to two silver *yen*; or, on the other hand, the new gold *yen* will be half the weight of the old one. The silver dollar or *yen* is taken practically at 2s. sterling, and according to some accounts a gold coin of five *yen*, which will be similar to the half-sovereign, is to be coined, while the scheme quoted above restricts the gold coinage to a twenty-*yen* piece, equal to a double sovereign or an American ten-dollar gold-piece. Meanwhile the existing gold coinage is to be called in and re-coined, but gold is so little used in Japan, that this will not be a very serious operation. Silver is to be unlimited tender at the fixed rate of 1 to 32, and the Government is to stop the free coinage of silver, as the Indian Government has done, but is to have the right to coin, should silver coinage become scarce. There is, however, some difficulty about the closing of the mint until the new Treaties come into operation as, by the Tokio convention of 1866 between the Treaty Powers and Japan, it is stipulated that the Japanese Government shall exchange into native coin of the same intrinsic value, less only the cost of coinage, . . . all foreign coin or bullion, in gold or silver, that may at any time, be tendered to them by foreigners or Japanese. We must suppose that Count Matsukata has not overlooked this Convention.

Before the Gold Standard can be adopted, the Bank of Japan is to have a gold reserve in its vaults of one hundred million *yen*, or say ten million pounds sterling. It has at the present moment a reserve of over eighty millions, and as Japan has still a great deal more Indemnity gold to receive from China, there is no trouble about this.

The two operative reasons for the proposed change appear to be: first, the desire of Japan to be as good as any Western nation, and all the leading Western nations have the gold standard; and second, the desire to borrow money in the West for the development of Japan, and to invite Western capital to irrigate the industries of Japan. Western capitalists are averse to adding the risk of a farther decline in silver to the ordinary risk of sending their capital to the Far East; but it is supposed that they will readily send their money to a Gold Standard country. It is suggested that Japan should obviate the difficulty by contracting loans in gold and making them payable in gold; and this would in many ways be preferable to the adoption of the Gold Standard, which cannot but be damaging to the rising industries of Japan.

As we find it concisely put in the *Kobe Chronicle*, the following is a statement of the results that the Currency Committee expected from the adoption of the Gold standard:—

- 1.—Decline in the cost of goods imported from silver countries.
- 2.—Creditors would be benefited.
- 3.—The national expenditure would be reduced.
- 4.—A general decline of prices.
- 5.—Debtors and payers of fixed taxes would lose.
- 6.—General depression of commerce and industries.
- 7.—Decline of money interest.
- 8.—Agriculturists would be injured.
- 9.—Decrease of taxes and other government revenue.
- 10.—Payers of salaries and wages would be plunged in difficulty.
- 11.—Decrease of demand for labour.
- 12.—Decrease of imports from gold-using countries.

There is another trouble that is inseparable from the attempt to keep two metals circulating at a fixed ratio in a country, while the market value outside of each of them in terms of the other is continually fluctuating, and that is, that Gresham's Law comes inevitably into operation. If silver falls below the ratio of 1 to 32, Japan will lose her gold; if it rises above that ratio, she will lose her silver. It is proposed, indeed, to stop the export of gold by putting a premium on it, as is done, when necessary, by the Bank of France, while the value of the silver is to be kept up, as in India, by stopping the coinage; but this is not gold monometallism.

"The Health and Vigour of an individual depend upon the quantity and quality of the blood. When the tissues have been at work, there are thrown into the blood waste products, and if these be not eliminated but (through any cause) detained in the blood they influence nutrition and function and finally produce organic disease."—*The Humanitarian*. In cases of Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples, and Sores of all kinds, the effects of Clarke's Blood Mixture are marvellous. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Clarke's Blood Mixture is sold everywhere, at 2s. 9d. per bottle. Beware of worthless imitations and substitutes.

tf 7

THE SHANGHAI PUBLIC SCHOOL.

26th Feb.

THERE has been some agitation during the last fortnight or so among a portion of the community, inspired by the recent decision of the Committee of the Shanghai Public School to restrict the school to children born of Western parents. In another column we publish a valuable communication on the subject, which will, no doubt, be fully gone into at the forthcoming Ratepayers' Meeting; but meanwhile we may present a few considerations that may well be weighed by the ratepayers before that meeting takes place.

The Shanghai Public School was originally founded by the Masonic Body here, who saw that times were changing, that people had to look forward to spending the greater part of their lives here when they once became residents of Shanghai, and that they could no longer afford to send their children home to Europe or America to be educated. Shortly after it was established by the Masonic Body, the school declined to admit Eurasian children; but it did not pay, or rather it became a heavier burden on the resources of its founders than they cared to shoulder, and it was taken over by Mr. Lanning, the Head Master, as a private speculation. It suited him as a private individual naturally anxious to make the school remunerative, to admit Eurasian children. After a little while, the ratepayers began to realise the desirability of having a first-class public school at Shanghai, to which their children could be sent, so that they might avoid the pain of parting with their children during the most interesting period of their lives, and the expense, often almost prohibitory, of keeping them at school at home. When Mr. Jamieson in 1894 brought forward the scheme for turning the Masonic into a Public School he distinctly stated, and the statement was received with applause by the ratepayers, that the school was to be for "European children," and the constitution of the Committee, which consisted, when the decision now complained of was taken, of Messrs. Geo. Jamieson, R. M. Campbell, J. L. Scott, O. Stuebel, and F. M. Gratton, should be a sufficient guarantee that the intentions of the ratepayers are not disregarded. It has been the constant work of the Committee to make the School the high-class institution that it was intended to be, and to this end they are empowered by the constitution "to refuse admission (to) or to expel any children whose presence might be or is considered by them detrimental to the School." They have come to the conclusion, not lightly or suddenly, but after long deliberation and discussion that the admission and the continued presence of Eurasian children is detrimental to the best interests of the School, and on that ground have felt obliged to send out the recent circular to which exception has been taken. The ratepayers may, *prima facie*, feel sure that the Committee of the School,

constituted as it is, must have good grounds for the course they have taken, somewhat invidious as it appears to be at first sight. The Committee, we understand, came reluctantly to the conclusion that the School was not doing what was expected of it, or what it was intended by the ratepayers to do; and they saw that it was becoming a question whether the School should become a Eurasian School or a high-class public school for European children; and their duty is to make it the latter.

It is reported that the Masonic body take some exception to the circular previously referred to, but it is difficult to see what their objection is. By the terms of their contract with the Municipal Council, they have the right to the permanent free education of four children in the School. This right has always been recognised and availed of, and the four children being educated in the School under this agreement are all European children.

The decision now come to by the Committee of the School seems a little hard at first sight on the Eurasian children and their parents, some of whom even make the grave mistake of representing that their children are being "expelled" from the School, which is not at all the case. But it must be remembered that there are three other schools in Shanghai for Eurasians, all receiving support from the ratepayers, the subsidies they receive equalling exactly the amount paid to the Shanghai Public School. The Thomas Hanbury School and Children's Home was largely built and is largely supported, especially for Eurasians, by the Shanghai community, and it is now being extended, a fresh sum of Tls. 5,000 having been lately subscribed in Shanghai for the purpose, in addition to Tls. 4,000 given by its great benefactor, Mr. Thomas Hanbury. It is not likely that in the face of these three existing schools, the ratepayers intended that the Tls. 45,000 they raised by debentures on which they are paying interest, should be used in starting another Eurasian school. It was intended to start a High School for European children of all classes, and the endeavour of the Committee has been to realise this in the Shanghai Public School.

The Eurasian Question is a much too large and important one to be entered upon now, and we should hope that it will be put altogether on one side when this question comes up for discussion at the Ratepayers' Meeting. The facts simply are that the ratepayers have incurred a heavy liability and a large annual expense to establish and maintain a first-class Public School; that they have put the management of this school in the hands of an exceptionally strong and representative Committee, in whom they can safely have every confidence; and that this Committee have, after long deliberation, found themselves obliged to take a

step which offends a section of the public. It is a misfortune that it has this effect, but the Committee have no recourse if they find that the action they have taken is otherwise necessary; and we cannot doubt for a moment that they will be supported in what they have done by the general voice of the ratepayers. The view the Committee take of the intention of the ratepayers in establishing the school is, we are convinced, the one that commends itself to all but a small section of the community.

Review.

THE FRENCH MAIL-PAPERS.

(FOR THE WEEK ENDING THE 15TH OF JAN.)

THE appointment of Count Muravieff to succeed Prince Lobanoff was not such a surprise as it seemed to be at first, for a week before it was made public the St. Petersburg correspondent of the *Times* announced its probability. The appointment is discussed very fully in the Continental Press, the French papers commending it, as is the rule just at present with any step taken by Russia, the Austrian Press being somewhat doubtful about it, but inclining to hopefulness, and the German Press deprecating the supposed anti-German proclivities of the new Minister. His appointment is said to be due to the influence with the Czar of his Danish relatives, especially his mother, the Empress Dowager of Russia, who is believed to have a rooted dislike of Germany in general and Prince Bismarck in particular. Writing on the 12th ult. the Vienna correspondent of the *Times* says:—

The news of Count Muravieff's appointment as Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs is perhaps calculated to produce a less favourable impression in Berlin than in Vienna. Somehow the idea has got abroad that he has little sympathy for Germany. Indeed when first his name was mentioned in connection with his present appointment it was thought impossible that he could really be selected for the post. As a matter of fact, however, he has had little opportunity at Copenhagen of taking a very active part in diplomatic affairs. His task has been in a great measure confined to acting as intermediary for family matters between the two closely related Courts. All that is known of him in any way to his disadvantage is that he lacks the calm and self-possession which are so necessary for the Foreign Minister of any Great Power. Fortunately, that quality is possessed in an eminent degree by the Emperor Nicholas himself, which affords ample guarantee to the other Powers that Russia's foreign policy will not be influenced to any material extent by the individual temperament of the new Minister. It would, therefore, be difficult to see any reason why Count Muravieff's appointment should give dissatisfaction here. It might have been different had the post been entrusted to M. de Nelidoff, as at one time seemed not unlikely. It is no secret that the policy carried out by M. de Nelidoff in Constantinople was never viewed with favour in Vienna—a circumstance which, it is supposed prevented him from being accredited as Ambassador to the Austro-Hungarian Court. It is not impossible that the same reasons had something to do with his not being called to the vacant post of Foreign Minister. If that be the case, it would tend to show that the susceptibilities of Austria-Hungary are treated with due consideration in St. Petersburg.

Count Muravieff will, of course, not have unlimited control over the direction of Russia's foreign policy, any more than his predecessors. That belongs to the Emperor alone. But some influence he certainly will have, and it seems to be expected that it will not be exercised with the view of the promoting closer relations between Russia

and Germany. Yet it may be well to bear in mind that the late Prince Lobanoff, on taking office in St. Petersburg, singularly modified the opinions generally attributed to him while he represented his country abroad. The case is not a very unusual one, and an equally striking instance of recent date might be mentioned had not the diplomatist in question now sought the seclusion of private life. Count Muravieff is said by those who know him here to be an affable and accomplished gentleman, not likely in personal intercourse to give umbrage to any one. The probabilities are that, knowing himself that he is given credit for entertaining no great sympathy for the Germans, he will studiously avoid everything calculated to cause friction with Berlin—at all events so long as that is consistent with the course of Russia's foreign policy.

While in a leading article the *Times* itself says:—

On the whole it does not seem probable that the appointment of the new Minister will exercise any very marked influence on Russian policy for a considerable time to come. Influence to a certain degree it must have, of course, but it is far from likely that Count Muravieff will suddenly become a power in the affairs of Europe. By a long tradition, dating back at least to the days of Alexander I, the Emperor of Russia in ordinary times and conditions is in reality his own Foreign Minister, or, at least the framer of his own foreign policy. Statesmen of wide experience and proved ability like Count Nesselrode under Nicholas I, and Prince Gortchakoff under Alexander II, naturally come in time to have great authority in the counsels to their masters; but, as the instances of both of them show, even such men are at all times liable to have their most cherished designs modified and overruled by the Czar. It is not to be anticipated that the reigning Emperor will in this respect depart from the practice of his House. On his accession he was a very young man with little knowledge of public affairs. He was obliged to rely upon somebody, and after consideration and much hesitation he proved his sagacity by giving his confidence to Prince Lobanoff. But since the appointment of Prince Lobanoff the Emperor has had time and opportunity to learn much, and even if Count Muravieff could pretend to the rich experience of his predecessor, it by no means follows that his advice would be adopted with docility by his master. In fact Count Muravieff has himself had no acquaintance in any position of the highest responsibility with the great affairs of the world. It is he, and not the Emperor, who will require to be initiated into the mysteries of State. In these conditions Nicholas II is tolerably certain to keep his own hand on the helm and to steer the course he has laid down for himself. It is, as the *Neue Freie Presse* remarks, a course which makes unquestionably for peace. It aims at the maintenance of the new relations with France, but without in any way compromising those between Russia and the other Great Powers.

The following translation from the *Journal des Débats* shows the view taken of the appointment by the French Press:—

The choice of Count Muravieff cannot but prove agreeable to those who have at heart the continuance of the understanding between France and Russia. During his tenure of office we may rest assured that the views of Alexander III will continue to prevail, and the sourness with which the possibility of his appointment has been received by the German Press is not likely to have been unacceptable at St. Petersburg. The German papers had accused the Count of Germanophobia and of Pan Slavist tendencies. But we know what these terms mean across the Rhine. The conclusion to be come to is that the new Minister's political views are exactly similar to those of his Sovereign, and that the policy he will have to carry out will be precisely that pursued by Prince Lobanoff. The new Minister is conspicuous for the energy which is traditional in his family, and that quality will be of great service to him.

The *Overland Mail*, to which we often turn for sound writing on political questions connected with Asia, has a good leading article on "What are we doing or undoing in the Far East?" The *Overland Mail* is not one

of those invertebrate journals that are content to fill their bellies with the East wind of Russian denials and the contentions of sciolists that a Convention must be a bogus document because its terms do not agree with their preconceptions, and it points out that the Government must be asked in Parliament "as to the actual terms of the understanding which, there is no room to doubt, has been consummated by the Russian Government with that of Peking, and the steps which have been taken or are in contemplation, in view of the exceedingly menacing character of the new arrangement to Chinese independence and to British chiefly among other interests, for safeguarding those interests and maintaining a just balance of power in the Far East." We have not space to quote the whole of the article, in which the writer refers to the swarms of agents and the boundless resources which Muscovite diplomacy has behind it to assist its intrigues, and he goes on to say:—

They are as freely employed at Peking as in Constantinople, or at Teheran. Moreover, for her campaign in China the *entente* with France has opened to Russia the pockets of a very wealthy nation and placed at her disposal funds with which she has been enabled to bring the Government at Peking under obligations to her which gave her an immense influence and facilitated the intrigues which have culminated in the Cassini Convention, which promises to place the entire North of China and its capital within the power of Russia.

It is impossible for Englishmen who realise the prodigious advantages which Russia has so rapidly secured over China in the interval which has elapsed since the Chino-Japanese war not to feel alarm. They can measure for themselves how far Russia has advanced to what was but a short time ago a dim and distant horizon of her hopes by comparing the situation sketched out by so keen and comprehensive an observer as Mr. Curzon in his monumental work, and the exact position to-day, and they may well ask the Government of the Queen to say what it has done and is doing to check the arrogant stride of the giant Power which seems bent on establishing a supremacy over the best portion of the Far East and in the Western waters of the Pacific. It is time that the people of this country should be informed whether our Government has any definite policy in the Far East and what it is. It looks too much as if, while attention is being concentrated upon questions of secondary importance (to us) in Eastern Europe and Asia Minor, we were suffering incalculable injury to vital interests in the Far East to pass unchecked.

There was general rejoicing in the English and American Press over the signature of the Arbitration Treaty between Great Britain and the United States, and the Continental Press was generally sympathetic. There were, however, even then some doubts as to the course the U.S. Senate might take, that body which was once the strength and is now the weakness of the American government being likely, it was feared, to upset the treaty for the petty satisfaction of spiting President Cleveland and Mr. Olney. Mr. Smalley writes to the *Times* on the 10th of January:—

What the Senate will do with this treaty is matter of pure conjecture. It may, however, be said that the present is a more favourable time for considering any measure of amity than would have been the earlier weeks of the Session. Jingoism is, for the moment, under a cloud. The jingo blunderbuss which Senator Cameron and his warlike colleagues aimed at Spain has missed fire. Senators Cameron, Mills, Morgan, Chandler, Call, and the rest seem aware that they have brought ridicule upon themselves by their repeated demonstrations of belligerency and their repeated retreats. The country very distinctly declined to support them in their last adventure. They have been almost silent since the Session was resumed. Senator Mills has offered one more resolution, which has fallen flat. Senator Sherman, the venerable chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, has undergone one more conversion. He supported the Cameron resolution, but now avows himself

opposed to it, having discovered the country opposed to it and to all this futile jingo agitation to which from time to time he has lent himself. There is a probability that the remainder of the Session may pass in comparative tranquillity.

This may seem to bear but indirectly on the ratification of the arbitration treaty, but it does affect it closely. The vote of the Senate is likely to be determined by other influences than the technical merits of the treaty. Arbitration, like Mesopotamia, is a blessed world. It is popular in itself. There is probably no great enthusiasm for it, nor any very accurate knowledge of the question among its extreme partisans, but sentiment enough in favour of such a treaty to win approval for a vote of ratification. Nor is sentiment unknown in the Senate itself. There are, on the other hand, many political arguments against approval, and to political arguments Senators have open minds. Animosity to President Cleveland may affect the fate of a treaty supposed to bring him credit. There are other reasons, but if there were none the action of the Senate would still be difficult to foresee.

The following extract from the correspondence of the *Manchester Guardian* shows how implicitly the lying telegram about Miss Jacob's confession was believed at home:—

The excitement caused amongst old "Easterns" in London by the Yokohama poisoning case surpasses anything I have ever known. In the Oriental Club, the Thatched House, and the numerous resorts in the City of men connected with the Far East, the talk has all been of the Carew case for weeks past. The man who was poisoned and the poor wife whose innocence of the murder seems now to have been made manifest had lived for some time in the Straits Settlements, he being in the public service; and subsequently he became secretary of the leading club in Yokohama, a position of a very public character. No such crime as that now under investigation has been committed in any foreign settlement in the East for forty years. The confession of the governess was wholly unexpected by those who had followed the case so far. A statement made by her before Mr. Carew's death had excited the medical attendant's suspicions, and led him to remove the patient from the house to a hospital, though too late to save his life. Her statements as to the purchase by her of arsenic at Mrs. Carew's request at a native druggist's and certain letters from a third party which she had taken from Mrs. Carew's waste-paper basket and pieced together, were the strongest pieces of evidence against Mrs. Carew. Lastly, the letters of the mysterious "Annie Luke," who it was suggested had formerly had relations with Mr. Carew in England, and had gone out to Yokohama on purpose to kill him and then herself, made the case look worse for the poor lady, who was supposed to have written them herself in a melodramatic attempt to get rid of the blame; whereas the governess now confesses having written them. It has been pointed out to me that the summing-up at the inquest of the very able consul who acted as coroner pointed clearly to a verdict of murder against Mrs. Carew; while at the end of the magisterial investigation the case against her looked so bad that bail was refused, and the refusal was upheld by the judge, to whom an appeal was made, although she had during the hearing been allowed out on heavy security. Among "Easterns" in London those who knew Mrs. Carew and her husband could not be persuaded, in spite of appearances, that she was guilty; but, so far as I have been able to ascertain, general feeling in the East and in London was against her, and her own unfortunate action in endeavouring to secrete in court one of the letters stolen from her waste-paper basket told heavily against her. The amazing turn things have taken by the confession of the witness whose evidence originally fastened the charge on the wife is frequent enough on the stage in melodrama or in sensational novels, but no great criminal trial in recent years in this country has had such a dénouement.

The following is the Money Market note in the *Economist* of the 9th ult.:—

The opinion we expressed last week that the rates for money, which had then fallen sharply, would soon begin to creep up again has been quickly verified, the quotation for best three months' bills having risen to a minimum of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, and the tendency being still upwards. The market has been repaying the loans it obtained from the Bank at the end of the year, and when it has fully done so, and the short bills it then discounted mature, as they will do in the course of this month, the outside supplies are not likely to be found superabundant, especially as the collection of the assessed taxes will now be sweeping money into the Bank. The easier tendency of the Berlin money market is, of course, a favourable feature, but although the demand for gold from that quarter has fallen off, the metal is still being taken for shipment to the East. It looks at present, therefore, as if rates would rise to a slightly higher level, and remain there. But the possibility of gold beginning to flow to this side from the United States has still to be kept in view, as in that case the aspect of our market would quickly change.

The *Economist's* first leading article is on "The Position in South Africa." Without wishing to be hard on Mr. Rhodes, the *Economist* shows what a vainglorious person he is, and how mischievous and unwarrantable are the stories he has been telling of what he has done for South Africa. "If the Imperial authorities had not previously sent out the Bechuanaland Expedition under Sir Charles Warren, had not brought very strong pressure to bear upon Portugal, and had not in many other ways smoothed the path of the Chartered Company, Mr. Rhodes could never have succeeded in his task. Yet of these facts we seldom hear a word from Mr. Rhodes. One would indeed imagine from his speeches, that his achievements had all been carried out in the teeth of a bitter opposition offered by the 'unctuous rectitude' of his countrymen." What Mr. Rhodes—whose career is really a proof of the value of self-advertisement—has done of late, has been to seriously re-bitter political feeling in South Africa, though there is no necessary antagonism between the people of Dutch and of British extraction:—

It is, no doubt, unfortunate, in view of what we have said as to the need for a closure on South African debate, that the most thorny questions will have to be thrashed out here before the Select Committee. That, however, is unavoidable. It is a subject for regret that they have to be reopened, but it would be far worse to leave them untouched. We granted to Mr. Rhodes and his company enormous powers for good or evil in a portion of South Africa, and it is absolutely necessary under the circumstances that we should require at his hands a strict account of his stewardship. That enquiry, however, cannot really prejudice the situation at the Cape. On the contrary, the thoroughness and impartiality with which we have a right to assume it will be conducted cannot but tend to reassure the most important and most serious representatives of the two races in South Africa.

In its next article, on "The Taxation of Ireland," the *Economist* shows that, "both as regards the taxable capacity of Ireland, and the proportion which her contribution bears to the total revenue, the agitation rests upon a false basis." In the next article, on "Ireland as a separate Entity," it is shown that the Green Isle of the Sea is not subject to any greater inequality than exists in England and Scotland:—

The separate entity theory, even if it were admitted, would not lend support to the alleged Irish grievance. But the utter absurdity of the theory is evident to anyone who cares to look. The contention of its supporters is that we have no right to consider from what sources the revenue of Ireland is derived. That she spends far more relatively to her means upon spirits and other luxuries than the other divisions of the Kingdom is, they maintain, no concern of ours. As Mr. Childers put it in his Report, the claim is that "for practical purposes, and looking at the matter not from the point of view of the moral reformer, but from that

of the statesman, who has to consider the incidence of taxation, the things upon which the poorer classes do, as a matter of fact, spend their income, must be taken to be, under existing circumstances, their necessities of existence." Suppose, then, that from to-morrow the people of Ireland were to begin to double their consumption of spirits, and, instead of contributing £2,000,000 a year to the yield of the spirit duties, were to contribute £4,000,000? The supporters of the separate entity theory maintain that this would justify Ireland in demanding a contribution of another £2,000,000 a year from the Imperial Treasury. The people of Ireland, are, they hold, justified in running up their drink bill to any extent they choose, and in calling upon the people of Great Britain to pay it for them. That is the separate entity theory in its nakedness. Can it be said to be a theory that Parliament ought to accept, and to which our fiscal arrangements ought to be made to conform?

The *Economist Monthly Trade Supplement* opens with the following satisfactory paragraph. It is very hard on the bimetallists that facts continue to contradict their lamentations over the decline of British commerce:—

With regard to our foreign trade, the year has come to a satisfactory conclusion, the returns for December showing a large increase in both imports and exports. For the whole year the imports reach the large figure of £441,807,000, as compared with £416,690,000 in 1895, the increase of £25,117,000 being equal to just 6 per cent. The exports of British products were valued at £239,922,000, the total for 1895 having been £225,890,000, and there was thus an increase of £14,032,000, or 6·2 per cent. These figures, in conjunction with the evidence afforded by the railway traffic returns, the totals of bankers' clearings in London and the provinces, the production of pig-iron, and the statistics of consumption in the various branches of industry, go to prove that the past year has been a satisfactory one in regard to British trade, both internally and externally.

The *Saturday Review* has the following note on the appointment of Count Muravieff as successor to Prince Lobanoff:—

It is the dark horse that has won in St. Petersburg. Count Muravieff, the new Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, was never spoken of in connection with the appointment, and nothing striking is recorded of his work at previous posts; but in Berlin, where he had acted for a considerable time as First Secretary to the Embassy, the news of his promotion from Copenhagen was greeted by a depression on the Bourse. It is not suggested that the new Foreign Minister is personally distinguished by hostility to Germany or the Triple Alliance; but his choice is recognised as a further sign of the predominance in the Czar's councils of the Dowager-Empress, who hates and distrusts Germany with the intensity of a highly emotional woman who has a long memory. The Danish Royal Family have never forgotten the high-handed brutality with which Prussia treated the little kingdom in 1864, and the fable of the mouse and the lion is often spoken of in Copenhagen with a reversed application. Berlin knows this well, and so the news is unwelcome; but it creates elation in Paris and a curiously mixed feeling of relief and uneasiness in Vienna. As for England, we have no cause for much emotion either way, except that the Danish Court may be better able to exert its influence in the direction of the much-desired understanding between Downing-Street and St. Petersburg.

The following note has a little humour in it:—

The *St. James's Gazette* in its article this week on "Jews as Soldiers" should have told the story of the German Israelite's capture of a French Eagle in the Franco-Prussian War. One of the Rothschilds, anxious to wipe out the stigma of cautious peacefulness under which his race labours, gave notice that he would present a handsome sum of money to any Hebrew soldier in the German army who might capture a French flag. Such a capture was made, and in due course the Jewish warrior came up for the promised reward. After he had received it, the delighted donor invited the recipient into his private room,

and begged him to recount the glorious episode. "Well, my Lord, it was in this way," said the hero; "the French soldier who carried the Eagle was also one of the Race, so we did it on joint account."

In its first leading article, on "The Work of the Session," the *Saturday* does not speak very hopefully of the prospects of the Government. In its second, on "Ireland's Burden," it takes up the cause of the new Irish agitation, the concluding paragraph being:—

A jeer at the whisky-drinking nation will not settle the question. The strongest and ablest opponent of the Majority Report of the Financial Relations Commission, Sir D. Barbour, admits that Ireland has a grievance, that her complaint is justified. We must find a remedy other than Separation, and our first move should be to adopt the advice of Lord Randolph Churchill and "sweep away Dublin Castle," that hotbed of extravagance and misgovernment. We should, also, grant to Ireland a large measure of local self-government and the control of her local expenditure. There is always extravagance when other people's money is spent: let us see how the Irish can manage their own expenditure. We do not claim for Ireland any remissions, doles, or grants; we claim for her the right to administer her own expenses and to benefit by the savings she may effect. Let her reduce that overpaid and underworked force, the Constabulary; relieve her of that enormous and useless garrison; let her learn economy from experience. A just solution of the present unjust condition of things would soon pacify Ireland, and "Hibernia pacata" would not need more than a garrison of 6,000 police and 3,000 regulars. England could make use of the 25,000 men that would then be at her disposal.

There is a very good article by Bernard Shaw on Marie Corelli's ridiculous play, *The Sorrows of Satan*.

The following note from the *Spectator* will interest catholic-minded people:—

The *Daily Chronicle* of Thursday gives a very interesting account of General Booth's call on Mr. Gladstone at Hawarden Castle on the shortest day of last year. Very naturally and inevitably the General seems to have been much fascinated by his host, who was as genial, keen, and sympathetic with the head of the Salvation Army as he would have been with one of his own circle of friends. Mr. Gladstone elicited that the various lieutenants of General Booth sent abroad every year from this country number between two and three hundred, that the total annual income of the whole Army is over a million sterling, and that the head of the Army is to nominate his successor. There is also a scheme under consideration, not yet fully matured, for rectifying any omission on the part of the General of the Army to make his nomination. Mr. Gladstone seemed, perhaps, a trifle shocked that there was no provision for the election of the head of the Army by any semi-constitutional process—even a Pope, as Mr. Gladstone remarked, is elected by the College of Cardinals. Other points of interest were,—the admission that Roman Catholics often come to the penitent-forms of the Army, and yet go regularly to Confession, a reminiscence of General Booth's that the late Cardinal Manning had once professed his full belief that the Spirit of God was with the Salvation Army, and the final expression of General Booth's own belief (not communicated, of course, to Mr. Gladstone) that the latter is a great talker, and that he "ought" to talk, because he soon wins his way to the very heart of a subject, and lights it up with happy and vivifying expressions.

The *Spectator's* first leading article, on "M. de Nelidoff's Note," deals with the fact, well-known but shouted out too loudly, that the policy of nearly all the Powers is ruled by the financiers. The moment the financiers got alarmed about Turkey, the Powers, which had previously been unable to agree on any concerted action, came together and sent the Russian Ambassador into the Porte with a Note which Abdul did not dare to disregard. Then, "if the Powers to protect a money payment can coerce the Sultan so easily, surely they could also have coerced him to

protect a nation from extirpation. Suppose the Sultan had been told that massacre would be as 'fatal' as theft? There are good articles on "The Command before Khartoum," which it appears is to be taken away from Sir H. Kitchener; on "Duelling in Germany," which the German Emperor seems to be making something of an effort to discourage; and on the South African problem. There is an interesting small-type article "On the Anti-Poetical," and there are numerous Animal-stories, glorifying horses, a goose, a raven, and several dogs.

Tenniel's cartoon in *Punch* deals with Lord Geo. Hamilton's "Second Thoughts." The following note will interest people in China:—

"A DIPLOMATIST WHO DOES NOT BELIEVE HIS SURNAME.—Mr. Nelthorpe Beauclerk, our new Consul-General at Buda-Pesth, speaks Chinese, Russian, French, German, Italian, Danish, Spanish, with other languages. A *beau clerc*, indeed!"

Outports.

CHINANFU.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE WAVE OF PROGRESS AND THE OBSTINATE GOVERNOR.

The wave of progress seems at last about to strike Chinanfu in the shape of a school or college for the study of English and foreign sciences. The decree of the Emperor ordering the establishment of such schools in all the provincial capitals came down to Chinanfu in due course, but Governor Li replied to Peking that there were none here desirous of undertaking such studies. Word however came back from the high authorities that he should in any event start such a school and doubtless applicants for its privileges would appear in due time. A second time the Governor objected that there was no suitable place available except the Chang Kung Ssu, a temple lately erected in honour of a recent Governor, Chang Yao, or the Yen Kung Ssu, another temple in memory of a Governor of twenty or thirty years ago. Again word came back from the north telling him to prepare the Yen Kung Ssu for the use of the school. But Governor Li sent back word a third time that there were no funds available for such an enterprise, hoping no doubt that he would be able to delay or possibly frustrate the whole scheme.

THE SCHOOL TO BE STARTED.

The Peking government however has insisted that a beginning shall be made and told our Governor to use half the money usually appropriated for the encouragement of Confucian learning by the giving of money prizes to needy scholars for meritorious essays, and by furnishing out-of-town graduates with living quarters, for the support of the new school of Western learning. The Governor has accordingly placed the initiation of the scheme in the hands of the Kuang Yen Shou Chii, a benevolent society in the city composed of very influential men. This is the same society which for so many years was so strongly opposed to the American Mission securing a foothold in the East suburb.

THE MISSIONARIES APPEALED TO.

They are now, however, making overtures to this same Mission for help in starting this new school, in the way of giving them some idea of its probable cost and helping them to secure men to carry it on. It is to be devoutly hoped that this is the beginning of better things for Chinanfu, a city which has been notorious for its contempt for foreigners.

OUR WEATHER

this winter has been wretched, much of the time cloudy, stormy, and unusually

cold. The ground has been covered with snow for five weeks and as it has alternately frozen and thawed the roads have been simply abominable, delaying very much our communication by courier with Chefoo. To-night a strong south wind is blowing which we hope will speedily melt the snow and give the ground a chance to dry out.

26th January.

CHINGCHOUFU—SHANTUNG.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE EXAMINATIONS

have passed off very much as before. One of the questions put to the candidates referred to eclipses and none were able to answer or even understand it, so the darkness surrounding us here is still very dense.

A HEAVY FALL OF SNOW

has greatly hindered traffic. It is heavier than has been known for years and while farmers smile travellers don't quite appreciate the joke, especially when you find it takes about four hours to do eight miles' travelling, for the most part on the "great road" as it is called. The people are generally speaking apparently contented and settled, though reports reach us of the usual winter crop of

ROBBERIES WITH VIOLENCE

on the main roads, indicating weak central government and chronic distress and poverty amongst the people, which the stress of winter brings to a head.

THE CHINESE NEW YEAR

is upon us and the usual inconvenience of all work stopped for a fortnight more or less is felt by all. When the Chinese, among other improvements, adopt the general observance of the Christian Sabbath, this annual fortnight's holiday will not be so necessary and could be arranged for in detail, and not in the lump as at present. We have not yet heard in these interior parts whether the powers that be have agreed as to the necessity for the

PARTITION OF TURKEY,

but some of us managed to do our share in that direction on a smaller scale in anticipation of the

HAPPY NEW YEAR

which is now well nigh over its first month from a foreign point of view, while China still lags behind in her usual leisurely way.

26th January.

CHINKIANG.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

WEDDING BELLS.

Chinkiang, on the 16th of February, witnessed a very pleasing ceremony in the marriage of Miss Ferriman, of Yangchow, and Mr. Orr-Ewing, of Kiukiang. Both are members of the O.I.M. and have been in China for some years. Interest was added to this marriage on account of the bride and bridegroom being so well-known. Miss Ferriman has for eight years rendered valuable assistance in the Training Home belonging to the Mission at Yangchow, and Mr. Orr-Ewing has for several years ably performed the duties of Superintendent of the province of Kiangsi.

The marriage ceremony was performed by the British Consul, after which the bridal party returned to the O.I.M. Home where they were received by Dr. and Mrs. Anderson and other friends. Here the R.-v. Wm. Cooper, Assistant Deputy Director of the China Inland Mission, held a short and impressive service, commending the bride and bridegroom to God in prayer for much blessing on their future service.

Afterwards followed the wedding breakfast which was very tastefully arranged

in the dining-room, the walls of which were hung with beautiful silk scrolls, bearing kind congratulations and good wishes from native Christians in Kiangsi and Yangchow. Shortly after the breakfast Mr. and Mrs. Orr-Ewing left by way of the Grand Canal for Shanghai, accompanied by the hearty wishes of their friends for God's richest blessing on their union.

17th February.

CHUNGKING.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

VISITORS.

There is nothing of importance stirring here at present save that the natives are very busy preparing for the New Year. The Blackburn Commission have already left us, and Mr. Gribble, of the Standard Oil Company, has arrived after a very quick passage West. He and Mr. Hanbury together occupy rooms in the well-known Jen Yu Tien, but their present intention is to return to the coast a few days before the turn of the native year. It is also said that of the four gentlemen deputed to join the Customs' staff in Chungking, one has safely reached his destination. His name has not yet transpired to the writer.

THE NEW RAPID.

It appears to be actually true that 11s. 20,000 have been appropriated by the authorities, for the purpose of blowing away the obstructions which go to form the new and dangerous rapid at Pantau. As I wrote some weeks ago, this sum will be refunded to the Provincial Treasury from a special tax of 20 cash per package which has been levied upon all cargo coming West. A very accurate sketch of the new rapid and its surroundings was made by a gentleman attached *pro tem.* to the Blackburn Mission, and in course of time this carefully executed map will be given to the public. The present writer has seen a rough draft of the drawing, and is able to say that some very vigorous and prompt action will, of necessity, have to be taken by the authorities to prevent the rapid from becoming a permanent and increasing source of danger to all riverine traffic. It appears to be the unanimous opinion of the Commission that, so long as this new rapid exists, it will be next to impossible to bring steamers to Chungking.

THE OFFICIAL WORLD.

Our acting Taotai has not yet returned from the capital whither he went, it will be remembered, to assist the Viceroy in his interview with the indefatigable M. Haas. A rumour is abroad—how much truth there is in it, it would be difficult to say—that the new Taotai, who owes his appointment to Peking influences, has arrived at the capital, and has been ordered by the Viceroy to fill tentatively the office of Provincial Judge, owing to the promotion of the former official to be Provincial Treasurer. The former Fantai, H.E. Wang, has returned to Peking and the current story is that he and the Governor-General were so much at loggerheads that for both to remain in high office in the same place was a sheer impossibility. Wang has no very good reputation here whatever he may have elsewhere. He is spoken of as a man utterly selfish and callous. One gentleman in describing him, said that he was "both blind and deaf to all important matters," and according to the testimony of certain missionaries who passed through the late troubles at the capital, this description of his character would seem to be on the whole accurate. Meanwhile, it is further rumoured that owing to the new Taotai having been promoted, the acting Chungking Taotai, who was about to take permanent leave of the place, will be retained here for some time longer. He is said to be in high

favour with the Viceroy who regards him as a warm friend.

AN AMUSING MATRIMONIAL INCIDENT

occurred here the other day which may be worth repeating. A young fellow, according to the story, was due to be married on a certain lucky date, but his business having taken him away just before the event, he found it impossible to get back in time. He wrote to his parents begging them to get the ceremony postponed. To this suggestion many objections were raised by relatives and friends and invited guests, and a strong despatch was forthwith prepared, peremptorily commanding his attendance on the original date. Again the bridegroom pleaded business claims, and said that he really could not come, whereupon the incensed father straightway took his departure for regions unknown, leaving the mother to do as she liked in the matter. The latter seems to be a woman of original ideas, and finding herself thus left alone, resolved, for the honour of the family, to resort to strategy. Giving it out that the bridegroom had actually returned, but would not be visible until the date of the marriage, she cleverly dressed in male attire a buxom daughter, who, by the way, is said to bear a strong facial resemblance to her brother, and made her act the part of happy man throughout the ceremonial. When the latter were finished and the deception was disclosed or discovered, the Hymeneal party is said to have broken up in fits of laughter, and in praise of the mother whose genius evolved so satisfactory a method of overcoming a serious domestic difficulty. The marriage will, it is said hold good and, *violen violens*, the son is now regarded by his family and friends as a married man.

THE MISSIONARY COMMUNITY

is looking forward to the usual series of New Year united services. The city will, as formerly, be divided into districts, and vigorous evangelistic work will be performed on the streets by the foreign missionaries and their native friends. There is every reason to believe that solid progress is being made by Christianity in the neighbourhood. One great and sad obstacle to the increase of church members is the wide prevalence of opium smoking. In Chungking not much less than seventy per cent of the population must be addicted to the habit, from which even many young children are not exempt. Protestant missionaries in this, as in other centres, have always and rightly required the smokers to give up the practice before receiving them into the church, and as long as this wise and necessary rule holds good the actual register of converts will grow but slowly. Our weather has of late been good, cold but dry with the usual fogs and only an occasional glimpse of the sun.

23rd January.

FORMOSA.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

THE OPIUM DIFFICULTY

has at last been disposed of, and the Opium Regulations have been published by order of the Governor-General. Mr. R. Hughes, of Kobe, representing Samuel Samuels & Co., who are to take over the opium importation exclusively, has arrived to establish the business. It is hoped he will remain personally in charge, as some difficulties will no doubt be encountered before the system is running smoothly, but under his skilful superintendence we should expect them to be reduced to a minimum. As this change will directly interest no small number of merchants, I have obtained a translation of the Regulations which I give entire.

THE FORMOSA OPIUM REGULATIONS.

Art. I.—The term "opium" in these regulations refers to raw opium, prepared opium, and powdered opium.

Art. II.—Prepared (refined) opium and powdered opium, are to be sold only by the Government.

Any drugs containing opium to such an extent that the same effect as prepared opium is produced, the importation and manufacture of same is prohibited. Also to buy, sell, deliver, receive, or possess the same without having obtained a license is prohibited.

Art. III.—Such persons as are recognised as having fallen into opium habits, will be allowed to buy and smoke refined opium, and to them will be issued permits.

Art. IV.—Special permits will be granted to those who make application, to enter the following occupations.

1.—Retailing refined opium.
2.—The manufacture and sale of opium smoking apparatus.
3.—Retailing of opium smoking apparatus.
4.—Establishing of opium smoking houses.

5.—The disposing of powdered opium at wholesale, which, however, is granted only to apothecaries, druggists, and physicians.

Art. V.—Physicians, apothecaries, druggists, and pharmacutists, alone are permitted to buy, sell, deliver, possess, or receive powdered opium without a license.

Art. VI.—Those persons who have been granted the licenses (permits) as given in article III and article IV are to pay license fees, the amount of which will hereafter be determined and announced at the Office of the Governor-General.

Art. VII.—Those persons who have been granted the license to buy and smoke refined (prepared) opium, or those who have been granted the license to establish opium smoking houses, can buy and possess opium smoking apparatus.

Art. VIII.—If those persons who have been granted the license of retailing refined opium, sell or transfer refined opium to those who do not hold the present license certificates for buying and smoking refined opium, they will be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for a term not exceeding fifteen years, or a fine not exceeding 5,000 yen.

Art. IX.—If those persons who have been granted the license of establishing opium smoking houses, supply those who do not present license certificates for buying and smoking refined opium at smoking houses, they will be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for a term not exceeding eight years, or a fine not exceeding 2,000 yen.

Art. X.—If those persons who have been granted the license to retail or manufacture opium smoking utensils, sell or transfer such utensils to persons not furnished with license certificates for smoking the opium, or establishing opium smoking houses, they will be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for a term not exceeding eight years, or a fine not exceeding 2,000 yen.

Art. XI.—Any person without a license who shall import or manufacture raw opium, powdered opium, or drugs having the same effect as opium, will be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for a term not exceeding eleven years, or a fine not exceeding 3,000 yen.

Any person without a license who has bought, sold, delivered, received, or possesses raw opium or drugs of like effect, will be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for a term not exceeding four years, or a fine not exceeding 1,300 yen.

Any person without a license who is found disposing of powdered opium wholesale, or has bought, sold, delivered, received, or possesses powdered opium, will be liable to imprisonment with hard labour

for a term not exceeding four years, or a fine not exceeding 1,300 yen.

In the above three cases, the opium shall be forfeited, as well as any money received for the sale of same.

ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS.

Art. XII.—For purposes of disposal of the prepared opium, and the powdered opium, as well as for the granting of licenses in accordance with the above regulations, the island will be divided into districts, and these regulations put into practice in these districts in such order as will best suit the convenience of the Government.

Art. XIII.—Even though these regulations have been published, but the licenses have not been granted in certain districts, the following regulations should be observed until the granting of licenses has been put into effect.

1.—Those persons who are habitual opium smokers only, are allowed to purchase and possess the prepared opium, smoking apparatus, and to smoke opium.

2.—Those persons who have hitherto been engaged in the manufacture, or retail of prepared opium or opium smoking apparatus, can continue in these occupations.

3.—Those persons who have hitherto been engaged in the occupation of keepers of opium smoking houses, can continue in this occupation and can also buy and possess opium smoking apparatus.

4.—Those persons who have previously obtained raw opium, refined opium, or smoking apparatus, but not as dealers in these articles, can continue to possess them or sell them to the dealers.

Art. XIV.—In those districts where the granting of the license certificates, and the sale of refined and powdered opium by the Government has been put into effect, the opium and opium smoking apparatus held by any persons without license certificates, shall be transferred to the Government, and the Government will pay the holders a reasonable price for each article, if they are recognised to be of value.

Those persons who do not transfer the above-mentioned articles to the Government, and in violation of the above regulations, will be liable to imprisonment with hard labour for a term not exceeding one year, or a fine not exceeding 350 yen, together with the forfeiture of such opium or apparatus, or if the same has been sold to other parties, the sum received shall be forfeited.

Taipeifu, 14th February.

LINCHINGCHOU, SHANTUNG.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE WINTER.

If plenty of snow and cold weather are necessary to make a winter, then the people over a large section of country hereabouts are sure of the season. Snow fell last week on the 12th to the depth of 6 or 8 inches. The cold days which have followed prevented its melting away, to the despair of the inhabitants. For is not the New Year (Chinese) drawing on, and there are countless debts to be collected, to say nothing of goods to be sold, etc. The average Chinaman is like a cat crossing a stream, when snow falls deep. He recognises that he has nothing to cover his feet which will not soon be reduced to pulp by the moisture and he moans accordingly.

THE GRAIN JUNKS.

A large proportion of the grain fleet got frozen in by the cold snap in December. Hence they are still in the Canal this side of T'ung'angfu. A good illustration of the need of railroads, if illustrations were needed. This reminds us that two or three years ago two mandarins, one of them the official of this place, seriously

proposed building a railroad from Tung-ch'angfu to T'achou on the Wei river. They had made careful inquiries as to costs and profits, and estimated that the railroad would pay for itself in three years or so, just to carry the tribute grain.

KIDNAPPING CHILDREN

in the counties of Wei and Ch'in to the west of us, in reported as of frequent occurrence. Kidnapping is frequently carried on for the purpose of securing boys to be sold to well-to-do people who adopt them into their families. But in these counties there is a brisk business of the same kind in order to secure redemption money. The brigands do not stick at murder when necessary to cover their tracks. One man, the grandfather of a boy that was being carried away, was so unfortunate as to say that he recognised the child's captor, when the latter turned and killed him instantly. The father of the lad was killed at the same time.

23rd January.

A STRANGE STORY.

It may be regarded as an axiom that events are happening in this land every day, which could by no possibility occur in any other, as witness the following.

A few months ago the village of Chien-Chuang, fifteen miles from this city, was raided by brigands. Soon afterwards an official from Peking sent specially to aid the local mandarins succeeded in capturing several of the culprits, and they were carried off to Tungch'angfu, tried, condemned, and beheaded. Inasmuch however as the crimes of these men had been committed on territory under the jurisdiction of this city, one or more of the heads were despatched to the official here.

THE LOST HEAD.

One such head was put in charge of a *yayi*, who found it convenient to carefully wrap his charge in a cloth, so that it had the appearance of a bundle such as the natives are wont to carry. Arriving at a village where there was an inn, he deposited the "bundle" outside, and went in for refreshments. But, alas, when he came out he discovered that his "bundle" had disappeared. Whether the "head" had taken to itself legs, or whether it had grown wings and flown away,—it was all the same to him. It was gone. In other words the reader will say, he had lost his head. That is hardly a correct statement, for it wasn't his head, but that of somebody else. It is a frequent thing in Occidental lands for a man to lose his head, or even a woman, but who ever heard of a man losing a head belonging to another person? It also happens in Occidental lands that people have the faculty of finding things which the owner never lost. But did the reader ever hear of someone finding a head and absconding with it? It is true also that jokes have been perpetrated upon the unsuspecting, and goods "borrowed" just for a short time with the intention of restoring them when the owner has suffered sufficient anxiety in a vain attempt to find them. But the Chinese lack the spirit of humour when it comes to dealing with the dead, and body-snatching is not regarded as a subject of mirth. The *yayi* who had lost the said bundle certainly thought it was no joke. He realised that a bill of lading had been forwarded to the official here, and so the latter was expecting it. He had no idea that he could get ahead of the official, it was the official who would demand a head of him, and he was very much afraid he would get it!

WHAT WAS TO BE DONE?

But all inquiries were vain. No one had seen anybody walking off with two heads. What to do, was the question. The Occidental's first thought would naturally be to advertise. A display line in some great

daily of "A Lost Head" would attract attention, especially if a large reward was offered. But the *yayi* in China never advertise, and they are not such a moneyed class as to be able to offer large rewards. Doubtless this particular *yayi* stimulated the omnipresent small boys with promises of cash if they should find the lost article. But as we have said, all was in vain.

THE FINDER.

Meanwhile what had become of the "bundle?" It seems that a woman in the village was out visiting that morning, and on her return saw this package. It looked tempting. It was on the highway, hence no one could accuse her of stealing if she picked it up. Nevertheless she looked to the eight points of the compass before she touched it; and then seeing no one, grabbed the "bundle" and departed to her own home. Here she concealed it, until she could on various pretexts send off the children, and this done, she proceeded to investigate her "find." Unlike the novelist, (for this is an "o'er true tale"), we are unable to state what were her exclamations when she opened it. It might well have been an "*Ai yah, liao puti*," or even a more emphatic utterance of grief and amazement. What she did was to fall back in a swoon; a condition in which the neighbours found her shortly afterwards.

THE RESULT.

And so it turned out as the moralist would always have it, that the theft exposed the thief, and the *yayi* got back the lost property. We may say *à la Chinoise* that "he lifted up his body" and departed rejoicing. And we may also say *à l'Anglaise*, that he picked up his head and went on his way. But did he? No, the *yayi* did not pick up his, the *yayi's* head, for it didn't belong to him. Someone suggests that "he picked up the brigand's head, &c." But this will not do, for as the said head had been taken away from him, how could it be said to belong to the brigand any longer? Another suggestion is that the head belonged to the official. But this does not help matters, for then we must change the above sentence so that it will read "the *yayi* picked up the official's head, &c.," which is a proposition contrary to fact as the reader well knows; the mandarin's head resting on his own shoulders at that very moment. A last suggestion is that the said "head" belonged to the Government, but this suggestion is so preposterous that when we change the sentence we shall be obliged to dismiss it. What head then was it that the *yayi* picked up? The intelligent reader has it, it was the head.

29th January.

TIENTSIN.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

WINTER

wears apace, and both pace and winter may be characterised as hard. For four weeks in succession the ground has not been clear of snow, and low thermometers have been the rule ever since the 1st of January. I think I am correct in saying that we have been half-a-dozen times below zero on the Fahrenheit scale, the lowest reading being minus 7°. Happily, with it all there have been fine bright skies and no wind, so that man and beast have suffered less than might be expected. The presence of abundant snow has put an end to most phases of field sport; and the season has been almost a *hiems* non as regards racing, cross-country riding, polo, golf, football, and athletics, although all of these were initiated in December with most promising zeal and gusto. On the other hand skating has been in abundant evidence and in-door festivities have been galore. Never before in local history has the real poetry of motion (skating) had such a show in Tientsin; the rink site is the best yet chosen,

and the committee has been as assiduous as it has been successful in providing a good floor. The ice surface I may remark is first obtained in the rough by flooding to a depth of 1 or 1½ inches, and is then improved by judicious sprinkling. It is daily, or rather nightly, mended by the same simple device: the coolies sweep it clean, and then sprinkle it with old-fashioned watering cans fitted with roses. Ice-boating has not been revived this year; institutions wax and wane with irregular periodicity here; and the ice yachts this year, like the Debating Society, are invisible. The fine old Scottish sport of curling, on the other hand, is looking up, thanks to the energy and lead of Captain Sparkes, R.N. This gentleman made a capital rink hard by the *Linnet* and partly by the merits of the sport, partly by goodly naval hospitality has inveigled many into a trial of the game. It threatens to become a cult.

MEETINGS

are as plentiful as leaves in Vallombrosa. One hardly knows where to begin to chronicle them. Union Church, the Temperance Society, Band, the Landrenters, the Race Club, have all had their annual field-day and have all made a brave show. Union Church is trying to find a new *locus*, and proposes migrating into the so-called extra-Concession; it has now practically limited its site to two places, one adjoining the Recreation Ground not far from the Gas Works, the other further south and less central, near the large godown of the Standard Oil Company. The Race Club Meeting was so interesting that I propose to send you by next mail a formal report.

OUR MAILS

have this year exhibited the most erratic course imaginable. Although there are daily despatches southwards and northwards, we have been constantly 21, 22, 23 (and once 26) days without Shanghai advices. I am referring more especially to newspapers, but even as regards letters we have been nearly all the winter 20 days behind you in receiving our foreign correspondence. I believe I am right in stating that this week illustrated the phenomenal fact that four successive London (Friday) mails, were en route between Shanghai and Tientsin at once. The primary reason is, of course, the state of the roads and weather. We heard yesterday that one foreign mail went holus-bolus into the Yellow River, but was luckily fished out before it slipped away under the ice. On the other hand the Peking and Newchwang mails tend steadily to improve with the extension of the railway lines. All work on the latter has knocked off for ten days, but within a week of resumption we shall be able to get within 30 miles of the capital on the metals, so that henceforth Peking and Tientsin are within 24 hours of each other. We shall be attending each others' social functions, which reminds me that the

A. D. C.

has during the last week given two excellent evenings' entertainment with *Naval Engagements* and *Little Toddlkins*. Artistically they were all that could be desired; they were mounted with fine taste and played with great vim and success. Out of ten performers, nine were first appearances in local comedy. The ladies were especially good. Miss Kekewich's *Mrs. Pontifex* in *Naval Engagements* was one of the most finished productions we have ever seen on the amateur stage. In *Mesdames Drummond* and *Morgan* the port has gained two really admirable *comédiennes*. As most of our former favourites are still here, and are willing to play again, this ought to be a red-letter year with the A.D.C. We already hear of four other pieces in preparation, two of which are musical and Gilbertian. Some 600 odd dollars were taken at two performances—

record figures for a non-musical entertainment.

The Smoking Concerts still hold their own and are evoking much hitherto unsuspected talent in the community. In Mr. Marshall, of Taku, a first-rate pianist has been discovered. The ladies' innovation, viz., a social, musical, and dramatic entertainment for themselves on Smoking Concert nights, holds its own. They were especially strong at their last session by some charming *tableaux vivants* illustrative of well-known advertisements.

1st February.

WEIHAIWEI.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE ARMY OF OCCUPATION.

Whatever may be said of the doings of the Japanese in Corea and Formosa, here they grasped the situation and settled down to it in a most businesslike way. Wooden buildings to serve as barracks for the troops, were erected in large numbers. In some instances the old sites of Chinese camps were utilised, in other cases quite fresh plots of land were secured, fenced in, and built upon. The most of these buildings are within two or three *li* of the native city; but others are as much as twelve and fifteen *li* from Weihai. There is probably room for ten thousand troops, though we understand there are only about seven thousand here at present.

THE CONDITION OF THE FORTS—

Of course the Forts have not been repaired. They remain as they were when the Japs evacuated the place just before the close of the war. Only a short time before some of the Forts had been fitted with Krupp guns of the latest type. These were then thrown out of gear and the muzzles broken off, and thus rendered useless. A hundred men left here, at the time might have saved the guns to the Japanese. But it is easy to be wise after the event. And at that time, I suppose, they fully hoped to finish up at Peking. Probably it would have been better for China as well as for Japan had they done so.

AND OF THE TROOPS.

The troops are well fed and well clothed. Every day, I understand, the men have three solid meals, and officers and men alike have big blanket overcoats with fur collars. In these they look very cosy, and this year they need them. For though the cold has not been as severe as it was two years ago when the Japanese landed and marched on Weihai, the snow has been much deeper. We have had it off and on for the past ten weeks and it keeps up. It has been snowing heavily for twelve or fifteen hours and the sky still looks full of it.

COMMUNICATIONS.

There is frequent communication between the garrison and mother-country. Five or six steamers bringing mails and supplies arrive regularly each month. And beside this, the Japanese Representative insisted on the Chinese authorities repairing the telegraphic communication with Chefoo, and maintaining a staff of operators here. As a business undertaking it cannot pay, but it must be useful at times for the Japs.

DECORATIONS.

It is interesting on holidays and special occasions to see many of the officers and soldiers, among other medals, wearing one made from cannon taken at Port Arthur. In Weihai there is still ample material for making millions of such mementoes.

THE IMPERIAL FUNERAL.

Last night, a few minutes after ten o'clock, we were aroused by the firing of heavy guns. It was not a re-bombardment of Weihai as many natives probably

thought. At that very hour in Japan the remains of the late Empress-Dowager were being interred. So a salute of twenty-one guns was fired here, and the soldiers in the various barracks were on parade. They thus joined with their fellow countrymen in the outward and visible manifestation of national grief. It further illustrates how closely in touch is the garrison here with the home-land and its doings.

8th February.

COREAN NEWS.

Corean finance, according to the Japanese vernacular press, is being straightened under the vigilant control of Mr. Brown, the English adviser to the Treasury. Mr. Brown's report shows that the Corean Treasury has effected economies aggregating no less than 1,600,000 Corean *yen* in the present year, which is quite a large saving compared with the revenue of the country. 4 million *yen* or so. It ought to be remembered that, when the revolution broke out in Corean politics in February last, everything was thrown out of order, especially finance. Mr. Brown, who had previously been a Commissioner in the Customs, was then appointed adviser to the Treasury. Fortunately, the Government had at that time a surplus of over a million *yen*, and this sum the new adviser determined to guard with the most rigorous care. Every possible economy was put into force and new undertakings were abandoned. Almost every unusual request made by a Minister of State to the Treasury was refused, and the payment of several months' salary of superfluous Government officials was abandoned. It is not strange, therefore, that Mr. Brown became the target of complaint, and an agitation was set afoot to compass his dismissal. He thereupon concluded a secret agreement with the King, and armed with this (which guaranteed his employment for three years), he looked upon the petty machinations of his assailants with disdain. Steadily he tightened the purse-strings, and succeeded in effecting economies. Mr. Brown is of opinion that if the Government is desirous of prolonging its life, it must stick to this negative financial policy, for the utmost economy must be enforced in every item of disbursement. If this policy is maintained, the surplus at the end of the present year will reach over four million *yen*, and no necessity will arise for recourse to a foreign loan. It is said that the idea of borrowing three million *yen* from the Russo-Chinese Bank originated with a certain political coterie having a special object in view, and that the Government has no desire to resort to this extraordinary means of raising funds.

Questions now attracting public attention in Corea are the sudden appointment of Min Yong-hwa, the all-powerful Minister of War, to be Envoy-Extraordinary to Russia, Austria, France, Germany, England, and Italy; and the movements of Min Yong-tsu, the most powerful latent force in Corea. Opinions differ as to this sudden removal of Yong-hwa from the stage of home politics, some attributing it to the growing influence of Yong-tsu; or to the result of an understanding between Yong-hwa and Mr. Waerber, which was arrived at with the view of strengthening Russian influence in Corea. A third conjecture is that Yong-hwa's power is on the wane, and he therefore intends to remove himself from the reach of public odium. Supposing the first explanation to be nearest the truth, and supposing that the removal signifies Yong-hwa's banishment from the field of active politics, the question arises whether Yong-hwa's sense of inability or his growing dread of Russia's ambition, has influenced his decision. At all events, the change must have some grave import. His supposed dread of Russia may not be unfounded, judging from the almost universal

desire of Coreans to see their king return to his palace. Rumour says that Mr. Waerber has declared himself opposed to the King's return to the Palace. The Corean statesmen, even of pro-Russian views, have lately awakened from their pleasant delusion; and reaction is now afoot against Russia.

Yong-tsu's movements are an enigma as perplexing as Yong-hwa's sudden removal. Kin Phyeong-si has been relieved from the Premiership, after having tendered his resignation for the fourteenth time. The selection of a competent successor is very difficult. The Portfolio of Home Affairs is at present most popular, and Yong-tsu is believed to have an eye upon it.

Such are the views expressed by Tokio journals. They will be read with caution by foreigners, much discredit having been thrown upon the veracity, or rather the nature of the sources of information at the command, of Japanese correspondents in Seoul. We are bound to say, however, that events have not always justified the sweeping verdict of the late correspondent of the *New York Herald*, who told the public that nothing coming from the pen of his Japanese *conféres* in the Corean capital merited serious consideration. In a great many cases the letters from Corea published by Tokio journals have afforded valuable indications of the trend of events in the Peninsula. However, these comments are scarcely merited by the quality of the news immediately in question. Mr. Brown's success in the field of Corean finance is already appreciated, and it may be assumed that if, by legitimate economies, he can stave off the necessity of recourse to foreign—especially Russian—pecuniary aid, he will spare no effort to secure that end. As for the statement that Mr. Waerber opposes the return of the King to his palace, we find it difficult to credit. The situation in Corea must be growing intolerable to the Coreans themselves, and that it long ago became irksome to Russia can scarcely be doubted. Being a situation plainly calculated to engender discontent and encourage intrigue, some safe and practical exit from it is probably desired by the Russian Representative as much as by any one else. Concerning Min Yong-tsu's possible accession to the Cabinet in the position of Home Minister, our readers doubtless recollect that, according to intelligence contained in the latest files of the *Independent*, Pak Chung-yang, Minister of Home Affairs, has resigned, and been succeeded by Nam Chung chul, formerly President of the Foreign Office and Governor of Pyongan. It seems unlikely that another change should occur immediately in the headship of the same department.—*Japan Mail*.

LONDON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE FAMINE FUND.

At last the authorities appear to have woken up to the gravity of the distress in India. On Friday Lord George Hamilton intimated to the Lord Mayor that the time had at length arrived when a famine fund might be opened at the Mansion House, and on Saturday the Lord Mayor's appeal was published to the world. Up to last night it had resulted in the collection of some £60,000; and funds have since been opened in several of the great provincial towns. The subscriptions are not flowing in quite so readily as had been hoped; but with an effort they may yet be brought up to the £7,000,000 which was in round figures the total amount of the Famine Fund of 1877. Mr. William Waldorf Astor has signalled his naturalisation as a British subject by heading the list with £2,000 for his fellow-subjects in India; and it is hoped that ambition to

top this figure will impel one or two of the new company-promoting millionaires to go one or two better still. The terrible accounts which have reached us during the last few days of the condition to which Bombay has been reduced by the plague will doubtless evoke further practical sympathy.

THE EDUCATION QUESTION.

To-day Ministers have gone down to Osborne to receive formally from Her Majesty the Queen's Speech; and on Tuesday Parliament will be opened. Ministers have to a very limited extent taken the public into their confidence on the subject of the programme of the Session; but on Saturday Mr. Balfour crushed the hopes of the churchmen by announcing that the promised Education Bill would not give aid from the rates to the voluntary schools. The announcement has created such an impression upon the Bishop of Chester that he has addressed and published a letter to Cardinal Vaughan in which he virtually proposes a union of the Roman Catholic and Anglican forces to smash the Government unless it gives way, and to treat with the Liberal leaders. And the strange thing is that Cardinal Vaughan has actually returned quite a sympathetic answer to the suggestion. The correspondence has, however, only been regarded with amusement as a further evidence of the hopelessly unpractical nature of the ecclesiastical mind. It is precisely because not only the Liberal-Unionists but even the more liberal-minded of Conservatives recognised that schools could not be allowed to dip into the local rates without submitting to local public control that the Government abandoned the idea of rate aid; and the notion of the extreme clerical party coming to terms with the Radicals, whose object is to nationalise all the schools and take the education of the children out of the hands of the parsons, is too ridiculous for words. As for the other great question with which Parliament will have to concern itself during the early days of the Session—the alleged over-taxation of Ireland—the excitement on that question has already to a large extent died down. A good many of the Irish Unionists who threw themselves "bald-headed" into the agitation have already seen their mistake. As a peg on which to hang anew the demand for Home Rule there may be some substance in the agitation; but from the Unionists' point of view there is none at all; and the Unionists are beginning to see that by supporting the agitation they have been playing into the Home Rulers' hands.

BY-ELECTIONS.

A by-election has just taken place in the Cleveland Division of Yorkshire, and there are two more now hanging over us—one in Forfarshire, where the Conservatives think they have a chance of adding a couple to their huge majority, and the other in Essex, where they have a safe seat. In the Cleveland Division, which has long been a preserve of the great Quaker family of the Peases, Mr. A. E. Pease, who is now shooting big game in Africa, retained the seat for the Radicals by a very largely increased majority, though he was absent from the fight and his opponent was a local man who has twice before contested the constituency. Up to 1892 Mr. A. E. Pease divided with Sir Frank Lockwood the representation of York City. He has a father, a brother, and a cousin in the Commons (the cousin being a Unionist) and he replaces another cousin in the seat which he has just gained. So the Peases are well represented in Parliament.

THE WEST AFRICAN CATASTROPHE.

The excitement caused three days ago by the news that an unarmed British expedition had been massacred in West Africa has been only slightly alleviated to-day by the intelligence that

two Englishmen, Captain Boisragon and Mr. Locke, escaped the fate which overcame their companions. The only consolation under this catastrophe is that it will doubtless result in the destruction of the power of the King of Benin, a petty chieftain whose barbarities have long been a source of misery to the natives and of trouble to the Royal Niger Company.

THE "DIAMOND JUBILEE."

Everywhere throughout the United Kingdom public bodies are beginning seriously to consider the question of how the Queen's "Diamond Jubilee" may be most fittingly celebrated next June. The Queen herself has, through the Prince of Wales, issued to her subjects a very judicious and kindly expression of her views. Her Majesty evidently desires to do nothing which shall detract from the spontaneity of the celebration. She will not express any wish of her own as to directions which the celebration should take, beyond stating that any scheme which has for its object the advantage of her poorer subjects will be acceptable to herself. With regard to the actual celebration of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's accession, a strong effort is being made in the city to induce Her Majesty to consent to the religious service taking place in St. Paul's Cathedral instead of at Westminster; and it is very probable that this movement will be successful. Westminster Abbey, as the scene of the coronation of most of our sovereigns, has of course considerable claims; but Westminster saw the celebration of ten years ago, and most Londoners would be glad if this year's jubilee should be consecrated "in teeming London's central roar."

MARIE CORELLI AS A DRAMATIST.

A dramatic version of Marie Corelli's *Sorrows of Satan* has just been produced at the Shaftesbury Theatre; but the authoress of the novel has suffered no less from the hands of the dramatic critics than she used from those of the newspaper critics before she ceased to invite journalistic criticisms of her works. There is a certain power discernible in the play, as in the novel, but the fatal lack of humour which prevents Miss Corelli from discerning the line which separates the sublime from the ridiculous is even more apparent in the drama than it is in the novel.

13th January.

PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

THE MAHOMMEDAN M.P.

The reopening of Parliament has been the great event of the week, and the appearance of the Mahommedan deputy, Dr. Grenier, was the great event of the reopening. Dressed in his turban and white burnous, the doctor alighted from a cab outside the Chamber, knelt on the muddy pavement, and salaamed profoundly, paid his cabman, and passed through an admiring crowd into the Chamber. The deputies paid a great deal more attention to him than to the President, and the *lorgnettes* of the ladies in the galleries were permanently directed on the white burnous. It was confidently expected that the honourable member would kneel down in his place and say his prayers at the hour of sunset, but he disappointed everyone by going home. Opinion seems to be divided as to whether he is an amiable lunatic, a *farceur*, or a very clever notoriety hunter. Some of his colleagues are scandalised by his costume and genuflections, which they consider calculated to bring Parliament into ridicule. They talk of amending the rules of the Chamber to meet the case. One can understand how hard it is for men of the Panama generation to be continually confronted with a man who believes in God. Forain, the clever caricaturist of the *Figaro*, yesterday gave us a little sketch

representing a deputy gazing on the figure of Dr. Grenier with his ample sleeves, and saying: "What a splendid dress for taking a cheque!"

THE NEW RUSSIAN DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

The appointment of Count Muraviev to succeed Prince Lobanoff has been well received here, more because it is the fashion to approve of everything the Czar does than because there is any special reason to believe in the Count's friendliness to France. He was First Secretary to the Russian Embassy here from 1879 to 1884, and made a good many friends in Paris society, though probably not more than many other foreign diplomatists possess. From Paris he went with Prince Orloff to Berlin and in 1893 became Minister at Copenhagen, where he was naturally brought into close contact with the Imperial family. He is known as a hard-working and energetic diplomatist, and as he is only fifty-two years of age he should be able to do the State good service. Personally he is tall, thin, fair, and nearly bald; knows his Paris well and is a member of its most exclusive club, the Jockey.

THE WANT OF MEN OF ACTION.

The advocates of colonial expansion are pegging away. They are organising for next Sunday a celebration of the bicentenary of the birth of Dupleix, the great soldier who would have made India a French possession but for Louis the Well-Beloved and his advisers. Sarah Bernhardt is to recite a poem specially composed for the occasion by M. Haraucourt; the Ministers of the Colonies and Public Instruction are to orate, and the explorer Bonvalot will speak—which is not the same thing. The scheme is a very good one in its way but not particularly practical. All the speeches and recitations in the world will not drag the French out of their shell. As long as the present educational system obtains, the schools will go on turning out youths who are fit for nothing but to swell the enormous army of quill-driving functionaries. What France wants is a new generation full of mischief and animal spirits: boys who devour books of adventure and run away to sea. Observe English or American boys at play and you find that they are continually striving to excel one another in something requiring either strength or skill, whereas a French boy's idea of play is to get hold of a soft ball and knock it about with a tambourine. Until the French realise the truth of the Iron Duke's saying that the battle of Waterloo was won on the playing-fields of Eton, the idea of colonial expansion will not take root.

TWO PROFESSIONAL GENTLEMEN.

M. Deibler, the French executioner, who is about to retire from office, has always been distinguished by a keen interest in his profession. Although in receipt of a regular salary, he has often been known to complain of the small number of heads he is required to cut off. During the presidency of M. Grévy, who had a horror of signing a death-warrant, "Monsieur de Paris" had for a long time nothing whatever to do. It is recorded that he complained of this state of things and threatened to resign unless it were altered. The post of executioner was not at that time greatly coveted, and the permanent officials were afraid that if it were left vacant there would be an outbreak of crime. Strong representations were made to President Grévy and he gave way. One or two hardened criminals under sentence of death were handed over to M. Deibler and the crisis was averted. Of late he has had little to do. He lives in a little house on the river bank at Auteuil, the westernmost extremity of Paris. He is a quiet, insignificant-looking man whose chief pleasure appears to be the cultivation of vegetables in his garden. He is paid a retainer

of £120 a year, *plus* expenses and a small bonus for each execution.

Deibler's predecessor, Durand, was a jovial little man, deeply impressed with the importance of his functions and quite indifferent to his own unpopularity. He lived with his wife and two children in the country not far from Paris and was a model of the domestic virtues. A journalistic friend, who cultivated the executioner's acquaintance for professional reasons, told the writer a queer story of a dinner of which he partook at the table of Monsieur de Paris. The *hors d'œuvre* consisted of sausage, which the host scientifically cut into thin slices. The sausage, though an excellent one, irresistibly reminded the visitor of a freshly decapitated neck. His appetite incontinently forsook him, and when the lady of the house appeared with the *pièce de résistance*—a calf's head dressed with blood-red tomato sauce—he collapsed entirely and got out of the house as quickly as possible. Mme. Durand was a worthy helpmate who entered heart and soul into her husband's professional triumphs and difficulties. At one time he had just invented a new catch for the guillotine knife and was in a state of great anxiety as to the manner in which it would work at the first time of asking. His wife, on the eve of the execution, went to her parish church and offered up a wax candle with a prayer that everything might pass off smoothly. It is satisfactory to know that the good wife's petition was granted and that the criminal was successfully despatched into the next world with the help of the new catch.

15th January.

Peking Gazettes.

ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTE.

Specially translated for the North-China Herald.

21st December.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

The commoner Hsü Lun, who appealed to us during the Imperial Progress outside the Palace this morning, is to be handed over to the Board of Punishments, the Ministers of which are hereby commanded to make a strict investigation into the facts of the said appellant's case, and then report to us the result.

No papers of interest.

22nd December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) With reference to the report of the Board of Civil Appointments commanded, the other day, to decide as to the penalties to be imposed on the Board of Comptrollers-General of the Imperial Household Department, the special Comptrollers-General of the Ningshou Palace and the Household officials connected with the said Palace, for neglect of duty in permitting a series of thefts to be committed in that Palace, whereby much valuable furniture, and ornaments and antique curiosities were stolen, in regard to which an edict has already been issued by us, it has been recommended that Huai Ta-pu and Li Shan, Comptrollers-General of the Imperial Household Department and special Comptrollers-General of the Ningshou Palace, be cashiered and dismissed for their negligence. We, however, exercise the Imperial prerogative of clemency in this matter, and mercifully commute the sentence to deprivation of rank, but they are to be retained in their present posts. As for the penalties for the rest of the Board of Comptrollers-General of the Imperial Household Department, viz.—Ch'i Hsiu, Ch'ung Kuang, Wen Lin, and Shih Shu, it has been recommended, that they be deprived of three steps of rank and transferred to some other posts relative to their reduced rank

for their participation in lack of vigilance in guarding the Sacred Precincts from thieves and outsiders. We also commute the sentences pronounced against the above Ministers, by commanding that they be deprived of three steps of rank as recommended, but be retained in office as heretofore.

Note.—The Ningshou Palace is the special Palace set apart for the use of Her Imperial Majesty Tsü Hsi, etc., the Empress-Dowager. Two eunuchs and an outsider were arrested in connection with the above-noted thefts (*vide* previous translations of *Gazette*) for which one eunuch and the outsider were summarily decapitated, while the other eunuch was banished to Heilungchiang province on the Amur river.—*Translator.*

(2) Niu Yun-ch'eng, is appointed Brigadier-General of the Palik'un (Lake Barkoul) Military Circuit of Chinese Turkestan.

Note.—General Niu was the successful commander whose exertions and bravery prevented the invasion of Turkestan by some 80,000 Kansu Mahomedans and their families in May, 1896. *Vide* "The End of the Rebellion in Kansu and Turkestan," *Gazette* Translations.—*Translator.*

(3) We have received the report of Lu Ch'uan-lin, Viceroy of Szechuan, announcing great distress amongst the inhabitants of Suiting (Suifu) etc., and stating that he has opened a Relief Fund to assist the sufferers. It appears that owing to the incessant rains last autumn in Szechuan, especially in the three prefectures of Suiting, K'ueichou, and Yün yang, the said prefectures being in the vicinity of high surrounding hills, were speedily inundated by the overflow from the mountains, thereby causing not only serious destruction of the crops but a number of houses were buried in the debris brought down from the hills, etc. We feel profound sympathy for our poor inhabitants in Szechuan, and therefore command the said Viceroy to use every exertion in trying to alleviate the distress. We would also earnestly enjoin upon the local magistrates, who stand in their relation to the people as the parents of the latter, to exercise all watchful benevolence for those under them, so that no case of real distress may be allowed to escape the notice of those distributing relief to the people. As for the rest of the said Viceroy's memorial let the Boards concerned take due note thereof.

23rd December.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

Appointing a large number of officials to the Metropolitan and Provincial Administrations.

24th December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) The Board of Rites is commanded to report on the memorial of the Censor Sung Peh-lu recommending that changes be made in the programme of examinations on the 3rd day of the Great Triennials for literary degrees of *chi-jên* and *chin-shih* (Provincial and Metropolitan degrees) and that the old theses be changed into subjects requiring knowledge of modern history, science, and mathematics, etc.

(2) We have received the memorial of the Censor Chang Chao-lan suggesting the urgency of requiring the various Viceroy, Governors, and Provincial Commanders-in-Chief of the empire to send in their annual reports at once giving the actual numbers of troops under them, their efficiency, condition, etc., in accordance with law. We would note that there has been a lamentable lack of attention amongst our high provincial officers in this matter, and this not only delays the work of the Boards of War and Revenue in their annual reports, but also leaves us in the dark as to what armies we have in the country and what dependence could be made on them, etc. The memorial of the said Censor is therefore an important one and we hereby com-

mand that the Boards concerned send our dict on the matter without delay to the said high officers. And, further, if any more delay be made the said Boards are hereby commanded to report to us and severely denounce the delinquents therein. Let there be no delay!

(3) Wen Ts'eng is appointed Junior Master of H-rse.

25th December.

IMPERIAL DECREE.

We have received the memorial of Prince Ch'ing praying that the newly appointed Brigade-General of the Hanchun Banner force of Canton, Yung Lung, be permitted to stay in Peking and complete some work belonging to the Peking Field Force which he had been detailed to oversee, before starting for his new post in Canton, etc. We hereby grant the prayer and command Hsing Ch'un, the Brigade-General of the Manchu Banner force of Canton to act in Yung Lung's place *ad interim*.

26th December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) With reference to the memorial of P'u Liang who reports that while holding the post of Junior Vice-Commissioner of Octroi at the Chung-wên gate of Peking during the past twelve months, he has been able to collect sufficient to make up the regular amount of duties required by the Board of Revenue for the one year's term of office, but as regards the surplus required he has not been able to collect that amount, etc., let the Board concerned investigate and report to us.

(2) A K'è-tan, Senior Vice-Commissioner of Octroi, also sends in a similar report. The Board concerned is also commanded to investigate and report thereon.

(3) The Censor Ch'eng Ping-ho sends us an account of the deplorable state of affairs in the Empire in which he charges the department and local magistrates of the various provinces of being notoriously lazy and ever ready to shirk responsibility, especially in regard to cases of robbery and murder. Cases, even, have been known to occur where brigands have openly and in daytime attacked and plundered towns and villages and private families of wealth, in which the local authorities concerned have had the audacity to compel the persons aggrieved to make affidavits to the contrary, calling a case of sheer robbery "only a case of theft," and similar attempts to shirk responsibility and the trouble of searching for the robbers, and spending money on rewards for their capture. If such be the state of the Empire at the present day, matters have certainly come to a pretty pass! It is therefore incumbent upon our Viceroy and Governors and their colleagues to make careful note of everything going on under them and to enjoin the local authorities to exercise vigilance and care in searching for robbers and clearing the country of the pests. If attempts at concealment and shirking of responsibility be in the future reported to them, they (the Viceroy, etc.) are to denounce the recalcitrant magistrates to us, and if the latter fail to capture the robbers within the period granted by law in cases of robbery and murder, the said Viceroy, etc., are not allowed to conceal or grant favour to the delinquents but severely denounce them so that the full extent of the law may be dealt out to them in such cases. For in this way only can we clear the official atmosphere of such undesirable representatives of the law.

27th December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) With reference to the memorial of the Censor, Lien Sheng, and his colleagues asking that adequate promotions be given to energetic members of the gentry and officers of the city police, for their efforts in capturing a number of notorious brigands who had infested the Imperial Prefecture,

the Board of Civil Appointments is hereby commanded to take the list of names sent to us by the said Censor and report thereon to us.

(2) We have read the report of P'u Lin stating that the fir trees at the Eastern Mausoleum are badly suffering from the ravages of insects, etc., and that the late severe weather had not bettered things in this line, etc. We hereby command the Vice-Presidents of the Board of Works, Ch'ang Sui and Ying Nien, to go with all haste and carefully examine the state of the grounds and trees in the eastern Mausoleum, and in conjunction with P'u Lin take the necessary steps to remedy matters. They are also commanded to take with them an extra force of Guards to the Mausoleum to help in killing the said pests.

(3) Lu Pao-chung is appointed Senior Director of the Supervisorate of Instruction of the Heir Apparent.

(4) The Tangut Prince, of the 4th Order, in command of the Cholussu Banner Reservation of Mongols, is hereby given the rank of an officer of the 2nd class of our Personal Body Guards, with privilege to do duty at the Main Gate of the Palace.

28th December.

No papers of interest.

29th December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Chang Ch'ung-hsing is appointed Censor of the Honan Provincial Circuit.

(2) We have received the report of the Board of War in which it is announced that after due deliberation the said Board had decided that the penalty that should be conferred on Ch'ien Kuang, Brigade General of the Manchu Banner Force of Miyun, Chihli, is that he should be degraded by three steps of rank and transferred to some lower post. We hereby confirm the sentence and command that the penalty shall not be allowed any commutation by "setting off" good marks against the bad.

Note.—This officer is punished for laziness and taking the pay of the troops, not however for himself, but for public uses, thereby overstepping his own powers. It will be remembered (see *Gazette* translations of September-December) that he had denounced the *Chihhsien* of Miyun for having adulterated the rice for distribution to the troops. This magistrate evidently had "friends at Court," for although degraded for the offence, he also turned the tables upon his accuser by getting a Censor to accuse the latter in turn.—*Translator*.

(3) We have read the report of Liao Shou-heng and Hsiang Lin, Directors-General of the Imperial Granaries at T'ungchou and Peking, announcing the safe arrival of all the tribute rice for 1896 at destination, whether by China Merchants' S.N. Co.'s steamers, sea-going junks, or canal boats. We hereby command that the two Director-Generals be handed to the Board of Civil Appointments for determination of adequate honours for their success in their duties, and that the said Board also examine the list of deserving officers connected with the Tribute Transport Department, and report to us the promotions to be granted to each. As for the postscript memorial of the said high officers eulogising the ability and energy of Lu Yuan-ting, the Grain Intendant of Kiangsu, the said Board is also commanded to determine what adequate honours may be conferred on that officer.

(4) Appointing a large number of officers to the Metropolitan and Provincial Administrations.

30th December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Tè Ming, Assistant Military Governor of Ch'ahar, reports that although his leave of absence is about to expire he is still suffering from sickness and therefore prays that he may be allowed to resign, etc. His request is granted and he is allowed to return to his Banner Reservation to recruit his health.

(2) Ch'ung Huan, Military Governor of Uliasutai (North Kuldja), accuses A-chi-erh-sè-tè-tan-tsa-mu-ts'u. Duke of Ti and senior noble of the Pakê league of Mongol tribes, of having used the excuse of dredging the waterway and irrigation canals of his league to force a contribution of 11s. 8,000 from each of the tribes of his league, thus benefiting his own pockets. We hereby command that the money be refunded by the said Duke, and that he be turned over to the Mongolian Superintendent for determination of most severe penalties. With reference to a postscript memorial from the said Military Governor to the effect that the said Mongol Duke had abruptly left for K'obdo without waiting for the Imperial Rescript, and that when the memorialist sent officers to recall him he defied them, etc., we hereby command the Imperial Resident at K'obdo to arrest the said Duke and compel him to return at once to his own League Reservation at Uliasutai. Let there be no laxity displayed in executing our commands.

(3) Su Lu-lun is appointed Brigade General of Miyun, Chihli, vice Ch'ien Kuang, degraded. Yung Lung is appointed Lieutenant-General of the Bordered Yellow Hanchun Banner organisation, Peking, and Ch'un Lin is appointed Brigade-General of the Hanchun Banner Force of Canton, vice Yung Lung transferred as above.

31st December.

IMPERIAL DECREES.

(1) Appointing a number of officers to the Metropolitan and Provincial Administrations.

(2) Pu Liang is transferred to the Lieutenant-Generalship of the Manchu Bordered Red Banner organisation, and Hsin K'ò is appointed to the same post in the Bordered White Hanchun Banner organisation.

(3) As an extra act of clemency we hereby give Ch'ien Kuang (degraded) Brigade-General of Miyun, (vide above) the rank of an officer of the Imperial Body-Guard of the 3rd class with privilege to do duty at the Chientsing gate of the Palace.

Meetings.

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

At a meeting of the Council held in the Board Room, No. 23, Kiangse Road, Shanghai, on Tuesday, the 16th of February, 1897, at 4 o'clock p.m.

Present:—Messrs. J. L. Scott (Chairman), E. F. Alford, D. Brand, J. Cooper, W. D. Little, D. M. Moses, and the Secretary, and the following members of the Council for 1897:—C. Dowdall, R. S. Freeman, E. Karbe, R. W. Mustard, and E. A. Probst.

The *Summons* calling the meeting is taken as read.

The *Minutes* of last meeting are read, confirmed, signed by the Chairman, and passed for publication.

General Municipal Rate—Native.—The following return for December quarter is submitted, and ordered to be published:—

SUMMARY OF GENERAL MUNICIPAL RATE—NATIVE.

September Quarter, 1896

	No. of Hou. sec. 1895.	Rental Assess- ment 1895.	No. of Hou. sec. 1896.	Rental Assess- ment 1896.	Increase House- hold.	Increase Asses- ment.
English Settlement	14,104	1,385,690	14,001	1,710,435	103	324,833
Hongkew Settlement	16,756	669,022	17,717	832,983	961	172,999
Total....	30,860	2,054,712	31,718	2,543,418	1,064	497,832
Occupied by Foreigners	525	..	567	..	42	..
Occupied by Natives	29,618	..	30,753	..	1135	..
Unoccupied	317	..	498	..	181	..
Total Assessment	..	2,019,822	..	2,543,451	..	497,839
Tax Collected ..	..	49,918	..	61,780	..	11,862

* Decrease.

Cash Statement for the past week is submitted, and cheques for sundry accounts are signed.

Return of Prisoners apprehended, and Police daily reports for the past week are submitted.

Volunteers—Home Guard.—The following letter is submitted, and ordered to be published:—

Shanghai Volunteer Corps.
Head Quarters.

Shanghai, 11th February, 1897.

SIR,—Various attempts have been made to place the Home Guard on a workable footing, but at the present moment this body has practically no organisation, and it is proposed to form a Reserve of Volunteers, each of whom should have been efficient for five years.

To start with I would suggest that one Infantry Company of fifty men be formed, which Mr. Dudgeon has consented to command. This Reserve will not entail any expense on the Council, as the members will wear their old uniform, the Council being asked to arm them with Martini Henri Rifles. I have the honour therefore to ask permission to raise and organise this Company.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

DONALD MACKENZIE,

Major, Commanding S.V.C.

J. L. SCOTT, Esq.,

Chairman, Municipal Council.

Decided to approve of this suggestion and to authorise Major Mackenzie to raise and organise the company.

Volunteers—Retired List.—The annexed letter is read, and ordered to be published:—

Shanghai Volunteer Corps.

Head Quarters

Shanghai, 11th February, 1897.

SIR,—In consideration of Captain Dudgeon's services in the Corps I have the honour to request that he may be granted a Commission as Captain on the retired list in accordance with Regulation VI, S.V.C. He has had 18 years' service, the last 10 of which were as Captain Commanding the Mi-ho-long rifles.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

DONALD MACKENZIE,

Major, Commanding S.V.C.

J. L. SCOTT, Esq.,

Chairman of Council.

Decided to grant the commission as requested.

Volunteers—Machine Gunners.—The following letter from the Commandant is read, and ordered to be published:—

Shanghai Volunteer Corps,

Head Quarters.

Shanghai, 11th February, 1897.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that at a meeting of the members of the Machine Gunners, held on the 13th of January, it was unanimously resolved to form themselves into an Infantry Company, to recruit up to the strength of the other Companies, and to ask permission to retain the Machine Guns, it being compulsory on all members of the Company to qualify in gun drill. I may state that their action in so doing was the result of an appeal from the Officers of the Corps, who at a meeting decided that it was absolutely necessary to have more Infantry in the Corps, and the ready response of the Machine Gunners reflects great credit on them. On the 13th of January the strength of the Machine Gunners was 25; to-day they number 45 and I have therefore the honour to request that they may be enrolled as "C" Company with the honour of keeping the Machine Guns.

At the same meeting Lieut. Miller was unanimously elected Captain, and C. Murray Aiamson and Colour-Serg. T. C. Anderson first and second Lieutenants, which commissions I recommend may be granted, subject to their passing the necessary examination. As Lieut. Miller is at present on leave I would ask that his commission may be granted to him at once, which I will forward to him, he, course of resigning it on his return,

I ask this as it is his intention to go through a course of drill while in England.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
DONALD MACKENZIE,
Major, Commanding, S.V.C.

Decided to approve of the above applications, to confirm these elections, and to grant the commissions as requested.

Volunteers—Light Horse.—The annexed letters are read, and are ordered to be published:—

Shanghai Volunteer Corps,
Head Quarters.

Shanghai, 11th February, 1897.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward herewith Captains Liddell's resignation as Captain Commanding the Light Horse. Captain Liddell has rendered great service to the Corps, especially in the Light Horse, in which he will be greatly missed.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
DONALD MACKENZIE,
Major, Commanding, S.V.C.

J. L. SCOTT, Esq.,
Chairman of the Council.

Shanghai, 10th February, 1897.

SIR,—As I shall be absent from Shanghai for some time, including the period of the Annual Training, I beg to tender my resignation of the post of Captain Commanding the Light Horse.

I assure you that it causes me much regret to thus sever my connection with the Shanghai Volunteer Corps of which I have so long had the honour of being a member.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,
C. OSWALD LIDDELL.

Major D. MACKENZIE,
Commanding S.V.C.

Decided to accept the resignation, and to write thanking Captain Liddell for his services as a Volunteer.

Local Post-Office.—The following correspondence is submitted, and ordered to be published:—

Inspectorate General of Customs,
Statistical Department,
Shanghai, 16th February, 1897.

SIR,—It being generally reported that the community experience considerable inconvenience owing to the pillar, and other letter boxes, erected by the Municipal Local Post Office, being no longer available for posting correspondence addressed to the Coast or riverine ports in China, I have the honour to inform you that, if desired by the Municipality of Shanghai, the Imperial Chinese Post will take over the entire staff and plant of the Local Post Office, together with the leases of such premises as may be necessary to carry on the work as now transacted.

Should the Council elect to transfer their post office to the Imperial Chinese Post, I am authorised to state that, as regards postal business within the area at present served by the Local Post, the service will be conducted exactly as heretofore, while the exchange of interport mails will be governed by the regulations and tariff of the Imperial Post Office.

It is unnecessary to dilate on the great convenience it would be to the public, to be able to utilise the street letter boxes for posting not only letters intended for delivery within the settlement, but correspondence for any port in China, also Hongkong, Macao, etc., and eventually to all parts of the world.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
H. KOPSCH,
Postal Secretary.

To the SECRETARY,
Municipal Council for the Settlement
North of the Yangkingpang, Shanghai.

Municipal Council,
Shanghai, 18th February, 1897.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th inst., intimating that the Imperial Chinese Post is prepared to take over the Local Post here, and to carry on the

postal business within the area at present served by the office exactly as heretofore.

Your letter has been submitted to the Council, who in reply direct me to inform you that they will submit the offer to the Ratepayers at the annual meeting next month, as it rests entirely with them to accept or refuse it, but in order to enable them to put the matter clearly before the meeting, I am desired to ask whether they are to understand that no change will be made in the rates of postage now charged, should the Ratepayers decide that the offer is to be accepted.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
R. F. THORBURN,
Secretary.

To H. KOPSCH, Esq.,
Postal Secretary.

Inspectorate General of Customs,
Statistical Department,
Shanghai, 19th February, 1897.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of yesterday's date, informing me that the offer made by the Imperial Post Office to take over the Local Post, will be submitted to the ratepayers at the next annual meeting, and asking whether it is to be understood that no change will be made in the rates of postage now charged, I am directed to state that no change will be made in the rates of foreign postage now levied by the Local Post within its present limits of collection and distribution, should the Ratepayers decide to accept the offer.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
H. KOPSCH,
Postal Secretary.

To the SECRETARY,
Municipal Council for the Settlements
North of the Yang-king-pang.

Electrical Department.—Report by the Superintendent is submitted giving particulars of the Works completed during January, and of those now in progress.

The Meeting then adjourned.

The following reports are submitted, and ordered to be published:—

Police.—Return of apprehensions, etc., made by the Municipal Police during the week ending the 20th day of February, 1897:—

Offences.	No. of apprehensions.
Breach of Municipal Regulations	38
Burglary	3
Cruelty to Animals	1
Cutting and Wounding	3
Embezzlement.....	1
Fraud	1
Furious riding or driving.....	5
Gambling.....	36
Larceny from dwellings, etc.	60
" servants	1
Miscellaneous cases	374
'Ricsha Licenses suspended.....	511
" confiscated.....	11
'Wheelbarrow „ suspended.....	83
Beggars, hawkers and ragpickers	426

Total number of persons coming under the notice of Police 1,554
Chinese dead bodies found in streets... 6
Stray dogs captured..... 54

DONALD MACKENZIE,
Captain Superintendent.

Native Dairies.—Weekly Report.

The Native Dairies, containing 535 head of cattle, have all been visited during the past week. No outbreak of disease has occurred during the week, but two dairies are still regarded as infected.

JOHN CHRISTIE,
Inspector.

ONE BOX OF CLARKE'S B 41 PILLS are warranted to cure all discharges from the Urinary Organs, in either sex (acquired or constitutional), Gravel and Pains in the Back. Guaranteed free from Mercury. Sold in Boxes, 4s. 6d. each, by all chemists and Patent Medicine Vendors throughout the World. Proprietors, THE LINCOLN AND MIDLAND COUNTIES DRUG COMPANY, Lincoln, England.
(2 (alt) of 7

THE SHANGHAI GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Minutes of a Committee Meeting held at the offices of the Chamber on Monday, the 27th of February, 1897, at 4 p.m.

Present:—Messrs. E. F. Alford (in the Chair), J. C. Bois, C. J. Dudgeon, A. Korff, W. D. Little, J. H. McMichael, D. M. Moses, E. B. Skottowe, and the Secretary. The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Light Dues at Hongkong.—A letter from the Chamber of Commerce at Hongkong, enclosing copy of a Petition they had addressed to His Excellency the Governor, protesting against the action taken by the Colonial Government in levying Light Dues on shipping, was laid before the Meeting, together with a letter on the same subject from the Agent of the P. & O. S. N. Co. at Shanghai. After careful consideration of the matter, it was decided to reply that, while fully recognising the principle that Light Dues should only be levied on shipping for Lighthouse purposes, the Chamber could not support any protest against the action of the Hongkong Government until they were in possession of full information as to the reasons which actuated the Government in levying the taxation complained of.

The Chinese Postal Service.—A letter from the Chinkiang Chamber of Commerce, asking if this Chamber intended taking any action about the charges for postage made by the Chinese Postal Service, was read, and it was decided to reply that the Chamber saw no present reason to move in the matter.

After the discussion of other business the following correspondence was ordered for publication:—

LIGHT DUES AT HONGKONG.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce.
Hongkong, 21st January, 1897.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to forward under cover copies of a Petition addressed to His Excellency the Governor of Hongkong, by the agents and representatives of Companies and firms owning steamers trading to and in the Far East, on the subject of the Light Dues now levied, and proposed to be levied on vessels entering the port of Hongkong, and of a letter addressed by this Chamber to His Excellency in support of the prayer of that Petition.

Hongkong being a free port, and having secured a vast shipping trade by virtue of that freedom, this Chamber naturally regards with a jealous eye any attempt to detract from its position in that respect. The tendency in many countries being to increase the burdens on shipping, my Committee trust that your Chamber will lend its influence in the direction of reducing those burdens, and to assist in preserving this important trade centre entirely free therefrom.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce,
21st January, 1897.

SIR,—A copy of the Petition presented to His Excellency the Governor by shipping firms and agencies representing steamers trading to and in the Far East on the subject of the Light Dues having been forwarded to this Chamber, my Committee wish to express to the Government their most emphatic concurrence in the views set out in that Memorial.

In a letter addressed to you on the 31st of July last, the opinions of this Chamber on this important question were stated at some length. The mere amount of the Light Dues is not regarded so much as is the principle involved in the practical retention of the Special Gap Rock tax. That tax was imposed at the suggestion of the shipping interest when advocating the

provision of a Light at the southern approach to the port, and it was agreed that its imposition should cease so soon as it had yielded a sum sufficient for the purpose. This has been accomplished, and the one cent per ton ordinarily levied is ample to pay for the up-keep of all the existing lights. My Committee feel therefore that they cannot too strongly protest against any attempt to perpetuate a tax imposed for a special object, at the request of shipowners for a specified time, and to merge it into the general revenue of the Colony.

This Chamber is deeply penetrated with the conviction that in the preservation intact of the freedom of the port mainly depends the continuance and growth of the prosperity of the Colony. This freedom is the keystone of the arch of that prosperity, which has been slowly built up in spite of many obstacles and some natural disadvantages. What other wise can account for the position Hongkong has at length attained, as the third port in the Empire for magnitude of tonnage? My Committee earnestly deprecate attempts to impair that freedom by the imposition of any of those taxes, which in many ports hamper the movements of the mercantile shipping and blight the growth of commerce, to the ultimate detriment of the treasures they were designed to enrich.

My Committee would, finally, respectfully suggest to His Excellency the Governor the danger of this Colony setting an example to the neighbouring countries of a desire to make a revenue out of the Light Dues—an example which it is to be feared may be only too readily followed. In some ports of the United Kingdom an agitation is now proceeding for the reduction of the Light Dues, and it would seem to be a retrograde step in this great free port of the Far East to augment them, for purposes of general revenue.

Sincerely hoping that His Excellency will see his way to accede to the prayer of the shipowners' petition,

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) R. CHATTERTON WILCOX,
Secretary.

To

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

P. & O. Steam Navigation Co.,
Shanghai, 13th January, 1897.

SIR,—I beg to remind you that I recently discussed with you the question of the extra Light Dues which the Hongkong Government propose levying on the shipping visiting that port.

It is unnecessary here to go into the history of these Dues, but I may state that the representatives of the various shipping Companies in the Colony, have already taken action in the matter with a view to protecting the interests of their principals, and that they have received the support of the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.

I would beg to point out that the Hongkong Government are avowedly attempting to raise funds by taxing shipping for the sake of the general revenue of the Colony.

This is, I am of opinion, a reason why the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce should support the Hongkong Chamber in their attempt to have the present tax on shipping reduced.

We are well aware that only a part of the tonnage dues paid to the Chinese Government are devoted to the purpose for which they are intended, and that although much still remains to be done in the way of lighting the China coast, and improving the approaches to various of the treaty ports, a considerable proportion of the tonnage dues are diverted into the general fund and applied to other purposes, not contemplated at the time the present treaties were signed.

It is only too probable that in the near future it may be necessary to draw the

special attention of our respective Governments to this fact, and request them to impress upon the Chinese that the money raised as tonnage dues must either be spent through its legitimate channel, or the tax be reduced.

Should the Hongkong Government ultimately succeed in carrying their point, the fact that they are taxing shipping in the manner above indicated will form a very dangerous precedent, and one of which the Chinese Government would in all likelihood not be slow to avail themselves, as in their present financial position it is not probable they will easily forego any part of their revenue.

For the reason above given it seems to me most advisable that the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce should make representations on the subject in the proper quarter, and thus support our colleagues in Hongkong in resisting what we cannot but consider an unjust tax.

I should be glad if you would kindly give this question your consideration, and lay the matter before the General Committee.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. A. HEWETT,
Acting Agent.

To

E. F. ALFORD, Esq.,
Chairman, Shanghai General
Chamber of Commerce.

THE CHINESE POSTAL SERVICE.

Chinking Chamber of Commerce,
Chinking, 30th January, 1897.

SIR,—On behalf of this Chamber I desire to ask if you propose taking steps to make representations to the proper authorities regarding the high rates of postage proposed to be charged by the Imperial Chinese Postal Service, according to their published schedule.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. E. ALLEN,
Chairman.

To

E. F. ALFORD, Esq.,
Chairman, Shanghai General Chamber
of Commerce, Shanghai.

THE SHANGHAI LAND INVESTMENT CO., LD.

The eighth annual general meeting of the shareholders in the Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd., was held on Monday afternoon, 22nd February, 1897, at the offices of the agents, Messrs. Gibb, Livingston and Co. Mr. H. R. Hearn presided, and there were present Messrs. E. Jenner Hogg, C. J. Dudgeon, A. McLeod (Directors), H. S. Wilkinson (Legal Adviser), H. R. Kinnear, Styan, Bisbee, Overbeck, Sneath, E. Davis, W. H. Beatty, Valentine, J. M. Young, Buchheister, J. C. Bois, D. Glass, Iburg, A. Cushman, jr., Perrott, Poate, C. O. Liddell, Whittle, J. Buchanan, and A. R. Burkill, representing in all 4,460 shares.

Mr. H. R. Kinnear having been appointed Secretary to the meeting, and the notices convening it having been read by him,

The Chairman said—Gentlemen, the report and accounts have been in your hands for some days and, testifying as they do to the growing prosperity of your company, your Directors hope they have been read and examined with approval. With your permission we will now take them as read. I must first bring to your notice a clerical error in the Report. The amount due for the final dividend, if carried, should have been stated as Tls. 47,566 instead of Tls. 48,566, and the amount to be carried forward as Tls. 2,108.92 instead of Tls. 1,108.92.

The report briefly describes what has been doing during the year in respect of the several estates, and I therefore think I need

not enlarge upon this, but I am ready to answer as best I may any questions put to me in regard to them. One matter, however, I have specially to refer to, and that is the question of the increase of capital. At our last annual meeting, you will remember, you were good enough to authorise your Directors to issue a further million of debentures. We have not yet availed ourselves of that authority, but the increasing scope of the company's operations demands more money. Our present capital and our borrowings on debentures, are fully and remuneratively employed. We want further funds for the buildings now going up, or projected and for the ultimate development of our estates; while, if we have anything to spare beyond that, we have an ample field for it in mortgages. After mature consideration we have decided to propose to acquire the money we want by the issue of new shares in the first place, and these fully paid-up. It would of course be cheaper to borrow on debentures solely—or to issue partly paid-up shares—depending mainly upon debentures—but we have thought that the slight sacrifice that the shareholders would be making by the introduction of new shares (of which, however, they themselves would have the first offer) would be compensated by the firmer basis on which the company would stand; and that debentures when again issued would thereby be held in the same high esteem as are the present.

Now with regard to the accounts, I will make some comments on their salient points. Rents show a gross increase over last year of some Tls. 30,000; so do fire insurance, water, repairs, taxes, to the extent of Tls. 6,000 leaving the net increase about Tls. 24,000. The increase in fire insurance, etc., comes about naturally from added buildings; and from a higher value we have to set on former buildings, since to replace them, in case of accident, would cost more money. We shall have to face too in the future an increase in the item of taxes by the higher assessment now placed on our land. Advertising comes a good deal higher than it did last year, Tls. 630 as against Tls. 174. This arises partly from an 1895 item paid this year, but mainly from the charge re debentures and shares. Agency and Directors' fees are now put on the footing assigned in the articles of association. Interest, the amount paid on our borrowings, less what we have earned on mortgages. Legal expenses are Tls. 1,200 as against Tls. 357 for which the cost of the Debenture Trust deed has largely to account. The result of the Working Account is an increase over last year in the balance passed to profit and loss of Tls. 21,205. Profit and Loss Account now shows the profit arising from the sale of Fogg's estate, say Tls. 30,983.94. Coming to our assessments the several estates stand at their actual cost; and it may be interesting to you to know that since we took them over we have spent some Tls. 564,000 in building and that buildings now being erected or in immediate contemplation will require about Tls. 200,000. Our mortgages exceed those at the end of the last year by Tls. 266,517; and this is a business in which we are glad to employ as much as we can of the funds at our command. The Reserve Fund we propose to increase, as the report tells you, by about the amount gained on Fogg's estate. A glance at the accounts will show that this is not a cash reserve; but an undivided profit, put to a separate account, and employed in the business of the Company.

In conclusion, I may congratulate you on the possession of what have proved to be valuable properties. The increasing importance of the Settlement is favouring you greatly; and while we do not propose to, so to say, rack-rent our tenants, we do seek, and do easily obtain, reasonable additions to our rent rolls; and I may say that we look for further improvement under this head from leases in the course of expiring. And our

tenants should not feel aggrieved at this, since it is notorious that the price of land, of labour, of material, is much higher than it was. We are continuing to build as fast as we can see our way to, and I may mention that the houses built since we started number 172 foreign and 1,293 Chinese. Before proposing a resolution as to the report and accounts I shall be pleased to answer any questions or to listen to any comments in respect of them.

I beg to propose:—

That the Report and Accounts as presented be accepted and passed.

Mr. E. Jenner Hogg seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

Upon the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. A. McLeod, the following resolution was adopted:—

That the Directors be authorised to pay a final dividend for the year 1896 of 5 per cent on the paid-up capital to shareholders on the register at this date.

Proposed by Mr. J. C. Bois, and seconded by Mr. E. Davis, Mr. E. J. Hogg was re-elected a Director; and at the instance of Mr. Styan, seconded by Mr. Young, Mr. C. A. King was re-elected auditor.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING.

At the conclusion of the annual general meeting, an extraordinary general meeting was held, Mr. Hearn presiding.

The Chairman said—Gentlemen, the resolution I shall be proposing will I hope meet your ready assent. I have already, at the meeting just concluded explained why it is we desire to provide more funds and why we propose it by the issue of new shares, rather than by a resort in the first instance to debentures; and we hope you will have recognised the prudence of this course.

In the resolution which you have in your hands you will notice that it is proposed that the issue of the shares be on such terms and conditions as the Directors shall determine. It is intended that one of these conditions shall be their issue at 40 per cent premium, say at Tls. 70, a price which we have thought the circumstances of the company well warrant. We have every confidence that the shares will be taken up at that, but the resolution does not state the price, for the reason that we wish to avoid a hard and fast rate being imposed in the issue. The shares as you know are in the first instance to be offered to the present shareholders; and we expect to find them so satisfied with the prospects of the company that they will leave few to be taken up outside of their body. You will also have noticed that a shareholder is to be held entitled to three new shares for every ten he now holds, or say in the ratio of one to 3½. Thus, a holder of say 176 shares would be entitled to 52 new shares and eight-tenths. It has been found inconvenient, however, in other companies to have fractional shares; and indeed our articles would not permit of them. We propose therefore to exclude these from the allotment and to dispose of the aggregate of them by tender or otherwise. Any profit arising between the issue price and the sale price will be distributed *pro rata* among the shareholders interested in them. The premium on the new issue we would place to Reserve, to be employed, however, in the business of the company. I therefore beg to propose the following resolution:—

(a.)—That under the powers conferred by the Memorandum and Articles of Association the capital of the Company be increased by the issue of six thousand new shares of Tls. 50 each paid up in full in addition to the twenty thousand like shares already existing.

(b.)—Such new shares shall rank for dividend as and from the 1st day of July, 1897.

(c.)—Such new shares shall be offered to the shareholders on the register on the 22nd day of February, 1897, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Directors shall determine in the proportion of three New Shares for every ten existing Shares

held by them and such offer shall be made by notice to be issued not later than the 31st day of March, 1897, specifying the number of the New Shares to which the Shareholder is entitled and the rate of issue of such Shares, and stating that the offer will be deemed to be declined unless an acceptance of such offer in writing is delivered to the Agents of the Company or to the Company's Bankers, the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, at Shanghai, on or before the 30th day of June, 1897, together with such sum per Share for each New Share so accepted as the Board shall determine.

(d.)—Upon acceptance and payment within the time above-mentioned the Shares so accepted and paid for shall be allotted accordingly.

(e.)—After the 31st day of July, 1897, any Shares not then accepted and paid for shall be disposed of by the Directors either to Shareholders or to others as they may deem advisable at the best price obtainable therefor, not less than the nominal value thereof, and any premium obtained thereon shall be dealt with by the Board in their discretion.

Mr. E. Jenner Hogg seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

This concluded the business, the Chairman intimating that a confirmatory meeting would be held in three weeks' time.

REPORT.

The Directors have much pleasure in presenting their Eighth Annual Report, with a Statement of Accounts for the year 1896, which they trust will meet with the approbation of the Shareholders.

The Profit on the Working Account stands at Tls. 77,695.34, as against Tls. 56,490.58 last year.

The Profit and Loss Account, after deducting the amount of interim dividend, paid in July, shows a credit balance of Tls. 80,028.69, and this sum it is proposed to divide as follows:—

To pay a Final Dividend of 5 per cent on the paid-up Capital (making 9 per cent. for the year) 47,566.00
 „ transfer to Reserve Fund (making it up to Tls. 70,000) 30,353.77
 „ carry forward to New Account. 2,108.92

Wills's Estate No. 1 calls for no particular comment, except that it may be mentioned that the net Rentals have increased by over 10 per cent during the year.

Chwong Hoong Estate No. 2.—The houses referred to as in course of building when the last report was issued have all been finished, and have been let at rentals considerably in excess of those contemplated when the buildings were begun. Building operations are still being pushed on as rapidly as circumstances permit, and the Directors think the day is not far distant when the Estate will be covered with houses bringing in remunerative rentals. The returns from this Estate have increased very considerably, partly owing to new buildings and partly to an increased scale of rents.

Little's Estate No. 4.—Building on this Estate has fully engaged the attention of the Directors, but circumstances have prevented a beginning being made until quite recently. In about eighteen months it is hoped the development of this Estate will be completed. Some of the buildings now being erected have been satisfactorily leased.

Hanbury Road Estate No. 5.—During the year two pieces of land adjoining this property have been secured, and building operations on them will shortly be commenced. All rentals have been gradually raised since the date of last report.

Jin Kee Estate No. 6.—Circumstances beyond the control of the Directors have stood in the way of a rapid development of this Estate, but it is hoped that the Sin Wo compound will be satisfactorily dealt with during the current year. In the meantime all rentals have been raised since the Company took over the property.

Soochow Creek Estate No. 7.—In the early portion of the year the Directors secured the offer of a plot of land, measuring some 120 *mu*, on the North Bank of the Soochow Creek, beyond the Alpha Farm, at a price which seemed to them moderate. This was borne out by the fact that within a month or

two of the purchase they sold the property at 100% profit, and this profit (about Tals. 25,000) will appear in the 1897 accounts, the title deeds having only just been received from the Chinese Authorities.

Capital.—The final call on the Capital of the Company, notified on the 20th August, 1896, is being met, but some of the payments, for various reasons, have been coming in only after the closing of the accounts. The Directors propose to lay before the Shareholders a scheme for increasing the Capital of the Company, a step they consider not only judicious, but necessary owing to the increasing operations of the Company.

Directors.—Mr. Hogg retires by rotation but offers himself for re-election.

Auditor.—Mr. King having gone home in the Autumn, the Directors appointed Mr. Wingrove to audit the accounts. Mr. King offers himself for re-election.

H. R. HEARN,
Chairman.

WORKING ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1896.

Dr.	Tls.
To Charges Account	157.79
„ Brokerage on Debentures	200.75
„ Advertising	630.01
„ Agency Management	10,000.00
„ Interest	23,016.96
„ Legal Expenses	1,199.80
„ Directors' Fees	2,500.00
„ Auditor's Fee	200.00
„ Trustees' Fees	500.00
„ Balance transferred to Profit and Loss Account	77,695.34
	Tls. ... 121,100.65

Cr.	Tls.
By Gross Rentals...Tls. 139,448.96	
Less Fire Insurance,	
Taxes, Water,	
Repairs, etc.	18,822.91
„ Transfer Fees.....	111.50
„ Commission	363.10
	Tls. ... 121,100.65

Dr.	Tls.
1896. Feb. 28th, To final Dividend 1895 @ 4½%	36,616.50
„ 28th, To Transfer to Reserve Fund	2,421.26
July 31st, „ Interim Dividend 1896 @ 4½%	32,548.00
Dec 31st, To Balance	80,028.69
	Tls. ... 151,614.45

Cr.	Tls.
1896. Jan 1st, By Balance	42,935.77
April 30th, Profit on sale of Estate No. 3	30,983.34
Dec 31st, Balance of Working Account, 1896	77,695.34
	Tls. ... 151,614.45

Dr.	Tls.
1896. Dec 31st, To Balance	39,646.23
	Tls. ... 39,646.23

Cr.	Tls.
1896. Jan 1st, By Balance	37,224.97
Feb 28th, By Profit and Loss Account	2,421.26
	Tls. ... 39,646.23

Assets.	Tls.
Estate No. 1	522,597.28
„ 2	627,598.01
„ 4	1,063,630.06
„ 5	130,569.46
„ 6	318,202.69
„ 7	13,526.19
Cash due by Agents	7,263.70
Sundry Debtors	14,564.80
„ Mortgages	487,900.00
	Tals. ... 2,252,852.19

Liabilities.	Tls.
Capital paid-up	980,120.00
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Current Account	22,062.75
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Advance Account	80,000.00
Debentures bearing 6%	500,000.00
" " 5%	250,000.00
" " 5%	250,000.00
Profit and Loss Account	80,028.69
Unclaimed Dividends	71.40
Sundry Creditors	50,923.12
Reserve Fund	39,646.23

Tals.....2,252,852.19

H. R. HEARN,
E. JENNER HOGG, } Directors.

I hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing Accounts with the General Ledger, and have found them in conformity therewith. I have also examined the Securities of the Company, and have compared the payments in the Cash Books for the year ending 31st December, 1896, with the Banker's Book and Vouchers, and have found all in order.

GEO. R. WINGROVE,
Auditor.

E. & O. E.

Shanghai, 5th February, 1897.

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co.,
Agents.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

The ordinary half yearly meeting of the shareholders in the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation was held at the City Hall on the 13th instant, at noon. Mr. A. McConachie presided and there were also present Hon. J. J. Bell Irving, Messrs. C. Beurmann, M. D. Ezekiel, R. M. Gray, R. H. Richardson, D. R. Sassoon, N. A. Siebs (Directors), T. Jackson (Chief Manager), and a large number of shareholders.

The Chief Manager read the notice calling the meeting.

The Chairman read the annual report, after which he said—Gentlemen, the Directors are glad to meet you again with a very favourable report for the last half-year. We propose to pay what has now become the usual dividend of £1 5s. per share, and place five lacs of dollars to the reserve fund. At the last meeting I advised you we had sold £188,000 of our holdings of Consols, the profit on which, say £25,582 16s. 3d., is included in the accounts now submitted. Our holdings of Consols remain at £500,000 standing at £95. Our other investments both in sterling and rupees stand in our books at very favourable rates. I am glad to say that we have a large portion of the profit upon the loans we recently participated in still unappropriated; same will go to enrich future profit and loss accounts, and will help us to maintain a steady dividend of £1 5s. per share in bad times as well as in good ones—that is the goal we are aiming at, and we are confident of realising it. (Applause.) Margins and profits of every kind are not what they formerly were in Eastern banking. We cannot see that the future will bring us any relief in this respect. It is therefore sound policy to husband our resources, and in building up our reserve as we are doing we are accomplishing two desirable ends, firstly improving (if that be possible) the credit of the Bank, and secondly rendering it all the easier in future half-years to place before you satisfactory reports. (Applause.) In my speech at the last meeting I alluded to the large amount of sterling that was then deposited with us in London in current account belonging to the Chinese Government. Our London current accounts then aggregated £6,315,097. A considerable amount of said funds has since been withdrawn, reducing sterling current accounts to £3,886,564 on the 31st December. A corresponding reduction has taken place

in our cash balance, say \$25,765,782 on the 31st December as against \$25,409,687 on the 30th June, 1896. Our fixed deposits in gold are less by £144,000 than they were six months ago, being £2,626,307 against £2,770,788. Bills receivable on the 31st December aggregated \$80,217,513 as against \$71,727,698 the previous half-year. The dearthness of money in Europe during the half-year brought a good deal of business to the Eastern banks, and our funds were fully and profitably employed during most of the time. So much for the past. As for the future we look forward hopefully, and although there are more banks in the field than there formerly were, there is no doubt that the volume of the Eastern trade is steadily increasing, and the tendency is to go on in the same direction. (Applause.) The deplorable famine in India and outbreak of plague there are interfering very much with business in that great dependency; let us hope that the efforts now so freely and so generously being made will be crowned with success, and that the dark clouds will soon pass by. (Applause.) In conclusion we hope that the year entered upon will be equal to any of its predecessors, and while we are fortunate enough to have our management conducted with the zeal and ability which so signally characterise our Chief Manager and staff we may look forward with every confidence to the future. (Applause.) Before moving the adoption of the report and passing of the accounts, I shall be glad to answer any questions shareholders may wish to put.

No questions having been asked, the Chairman proposed the adoption of the report and passing of the accounts.

Mr. E. S. Wheeler—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I have great pleasure in seconding the proposal. You have expressed the pleasure it gives the Directors to meet us with such a report, it is even more pleasant for us as shareholders to receive so good an account and to agree to your proposal as to the division of the profit, and this especially so as you tell us that the account does not include a large portion of the profit on the loans recently issued by the Bank, which will augment future profits, and thus assist in the maintenance of a steady dividend. It is especially satisfactory to hear of your confidence of attaining a position which will enable the dividend to be maintained alike in bad years and in good: nothing will do more to maintain the Bank in its present proud position, and nothing is more likely to result in the gradual and permanent enlargement of the dividend. You have referred to the increased competition in the Bank's business; that is a complaint we are all suffering from, but we may look forward to increased trade compensating for the increased competition. At any rate, I think we may have every confidence that the Hongkong Bank with its numerous and influential supporters, its growing resources, and its able management—both here and at the numerous branches—will in the future as in the past not only hold its own, but enjoy the lion's share of the trade of the Far East and long continue to be the leading bank. (Applause.) With these remarks, gentlemen, I beg to second the adoption of the report and statement of accounts for the past half-year. (Applause.)

Carried.
Mr. Ray proposed the re-election of Mr. N. A. Siebs and Hon. J. J. Bell-Irving on the Board of Directors, and the confirmation of the appointment of Mr. C. Beurmann, in room of Mr. J. Kramer, who resigned on leaving the colony, and of Mr. R. L. Richardson as Directors.

Mr. J. H. Lewis—I beg to second Mr. Ray's proposition.

Carried.
Mr. P. Sachse proposed the re-election of Messrs. F. Henderson and C. S. Sharp as auditors.

Mr. G. Stewart seconded.
Carried.

The Chairman—That is all the business, gentlemen. I thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be issued on Monday morning.—*Hongkong Daily Press.*

THE SHANGHAI CHURCH MISSIONARY LOCAL ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of the above Association was held at the Mission House, 33, Foochow Road, last Thursday evening (the 18th). Considering the falling snow and the cold damp evening, the attendance was remarkably good. It was rather an evening to stay at home and enjoy the warmth of the fire, than travel either on foot, in ricksha, or brougham to the noisy Foochow Road.

Sir Nicholas Hannen took the Chair punctually at nine o'clock, and at once called on the Rev. H. C. Hodges to open the meeting, which he did, by reading a prayer. After this the Chairman called upon the Rev. C. J. P. Symons to read the Report for the past year which he did by the aid of the Shanghai gas, supplemented by an oil lamp and several candles. The Report spoke of the work among the men carried on by the two native Evangelists, and the work among the women carried on by the Bible women, both branches being under the direct superintendence of the Foreign Missionaries. It also spoke of the work carried on in the schools, two for boys, and three for girls having been in operation during the year. The Report also mentioned that the Sunday services were now held in the English Settlement, and not in the Chinese city as formerly, there being many more Christians in the English Concession and in Hongkew than in the city.

In conclusion the Report asked for renewed and increased support, all rents having been raised, and in consequence of the lowness of the exchange, salaries had been increased. In the last paragraph the necessity of prayer was strongly urged. All efforts would be of no avail unless God gave His blessing.

After reading the Report, Mr. Symons made a few remarks about the importance of the educational work carried on by the Church Missionary Society, both in the day schools in Shanghai, and in the Boarding School at Ningpo. He said that the two Evangelists working in Shanghai in connection with the Local Association were the fruit of the Ningpo College.

The Chairman then called upon Mr. Elwin to address the Meeting. Mr. Elwin said in the short time in which he had to speak he would only touch upon one point; namely the ordinary Chinaman's idea of a future estate. Although of course in theory, the Buddhists, Confucianists, and Taoists held different views with regard to the future, yet there was a general impression that the next world would be very much the same as this, that is to say there would be magistrates, law courts, etc., etc. Every Chinaman knows that the man who can get to the magistrate first, by a judicious use of dollars, can generally make sure of winning his case. As in this world so in the next it is important therefore that if a man wishes to injure another he should get to the magistrates as soon as possible. Among English people angry words lead to blows, and sometimes to murder. In China angry words often lead to one of the men committing suicide, that he may go into the other world and lay a charge against his enemy there. Mr. Elwin mentioned several instances of this that he had met with in his own experience, the most remarkable being in the island of Pootoo. In the year 1872 when staying on the island with a friend, they had been called in to save the lives of two Buddhist priests who had taken opium. These two men had quarrelled, one of them took poison in order to

go into the other world to lay a charge against his enemy. When the enemy heard what had been done, he took a large dose in order to get there first. Mr. Elwin and his friend took the case in hand, and by the use of rather strong measures succeeded in saving the men, so that neither of them reached the place to which they were so anxious to go.

After mentioning some other very striking scenes that he had witnessed in the interior, Mr. Elwin brought his address to a close by asking for renewed help during the coming year. He said subscriptions both to the general fund, and the Church building fund would be most welcome.

Mr. C. Thorne proposed, and the Rev. H. C. Hodges seconded a vote of thanks to Sir Nicholas Hannen for presiding so ably at the Meeting, Sir Nicholas Hannen acknowledge the vote in a short speech, in which he expressed his interest in the work in which the Association was engaged. After which Mr. Hodges closed the Meeting with the Benediction.

Some of the friends who were prevented by the snow from attending the Meeting, may perhaps like to know that contributions towards the work of the Association will be thankfully received by the Secretary, 33, Foochow Road.

THE TIENTSIN RACE CLUB.

The annual meeting of this flourishing institution was held in the Library of the Tientsin Club on the 30th of January when Mr. J. M. Dickinson was called to the chair. There was a large attendance (47) and a sustained and animated interest characterised the proceedings. 1896 has been a red-letter year in the history of the club, record figures having been attained in membership, racing entries, income, and expenditure; above all the Club has become the proprietor of the fine course, grand stand, paddock, stabling, etc., which formerly belonged to the Yangshenyuan Company. The property was acquired upon terms extremely favourable to the club—Tls. 16,000 and the interest of the debentures which but little exceeds the sum formerly paid in rent. As there is every prospect of redeeming these debentures by the annual excess of income over expenditure the financial prospect is roseate.

The Chairman having quickly despatched the formal business gave a lucid summary of the club's history during the past year, and a cogent advocacy of certain proposals drawn up by a special committee on ways and means for future administration. The only unsatisfactory item in the accounts was the non-payment of a lottery account by a member who had left the port after a Meeting very satisfactory to himself both as a financier and a jockey. As it was there was the handsome sum of Tls. 1,343 at the bank, and Tls. 452 to be collected, Tls. 200 of which might be considered good debt. Only "Donations and Prizes" compared unfavourably with past years (Tls. 500 less) and this was chiefly due to the absence of the Viceroy's Cup. The estimated value of the property for which they had given Tls. 16,000 was now Tls. 26,000.

On the motion of Messrs. W. A. Morling and D. Mackintosh the accounts were passed by acclamation.

Mr. W. A. Morling, seconded by Mr. J. I. M. Drummond, then moved that "The scale of weights be reduced 3 lbs." on the ground that there was now no longer the preponderance of heavy riders, and that the proposed reduction would bring us level with the scale common to all the China ports; and thus facilitate comparisons and sales. This, in previous years a keenly contested proposal, was carried *nem. con.*

Mr. Jacobsen then briefly but forcibly introduced another contentious point round which great battles have raged

for years—"That no Chinese riders be allowed to ride in official races." Mr. Jacobsen referred to the trouble these riders gave the starter and judge; he suggested scratch races or an "off day" for their special benefit. It was suggested that the loss of the Taotai's Cup might ensue, but it was pointed out that His Excellency used to give the Cup to foreign riders, and the resolution, seconded by Mr. Murray, was carried overwhelmingly.

Mr. J. I. M. Drummond, seconded by Mr. Jacobsen, then proposed certain alterations in the conditions of the "Champions," viz., that instead of "A forced entry of 10 per cent on prizes won by winners at this meeting: optional entrance of Tls. 10 each for other ponies entered at this meeting," the conditions should be: "A forced entry for and open only to winners at this meeting: optional for the winner of the Consolation Stakes." The Chairman ruled this out of order as invading the function of the Stewards, but it was then discussed as a suggestion for the consideration of these gentlemen.

Mr. Drummond adduced three reasons and carried the meeting with him. He wished (1) to make it impossible to keep a pony over the first and second days and run him in the "Champions" only; (2) to make it impossible for one stable to engage three or four riders on useless ponies and so preclude a possible winner securing a jock; (3) to secure larger fields and keener competitions during the meeting, as only winners can run in the "Champions."

Dr. Frazer then moved, seconded by Mr. W. A. Morling: "That the entrance fee be \$20, and the annual subscription \$25, payable on the 1st of January in each year. Any member leaving the port within six months to be entitled to his entrance fee."

Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Murray, moved an amendment to the effect that the entrance fee be \$25 and the annual subscription \$20. There was close and well-sustained debate on this; the supporters of the amendment denying the necessity of so great an increase (from \$10 to \$25) in the subscription. While the income generally was increasing by leaps and bounds, the new proposal pressed hard on the staff of the banks, consulates, and customs. The supporters of the motion pinned their faith to the fact that it was the carefully considered and deliberate recommendation of the body of experts who had effected the purchase of the property. Messrs. Perry, McLeish, and Drummond advocated the amendment and Messrs. J. N. Hatch, Dalton, and Mordhorst the original motion.

The amendment was carried by 22 to 19.

A proposal by Messrs. Mordhorst and Jacobsen to levy a fee of \$6 per month on those using the Race Club Bar was defeated.

Dr. Frazer moved and Mr. W. H. Forbes seconded that: "Any gentleman who may temporarily visit Tientsin shall, on being proposed by one member and seconded by another and approved by the Stewards, be privileged to use the Club for a period not exceeding two months; his name being entered in a book kept for the purpose. Such privilege shall not however include the right of voting at any meeting or of entering ponies."

Carried *nem. con.*

Messrs. Fenton and Sommer proposed a suggestion to the stewards that the second starter be abolished. Other jocks were strongly adverse to the proposal, one going so far as to suggest the abolition of the first starter in preference (laughter), and the proposal was lost.

Mr. McLeish asked that disciplinary power be given to the stewards to safeguard the Club against defaulters. It was nothing less than a scandal that a member should leave the port a large winner by sweeps, etc., and then refuse to pay his lottery account. He thought such a man should be posted as a defaulter, and his name and conduct communicated to every Race Club in the Far East (Applause).

The Chairman pointed out that by Rule 8 the Stewards had disciplinary power after a man had become a defaulter, but to obviate the recurrence of financial loss to the Club on a lottery account, he proposed: "The Stewards shall have the right of calling upon any member for payment of his engagements on the morning following the lotteries, and failing payment within reasonable time, the pony or ponies may be put up for sale again, and the lottery adjusted accordingly. The original buyer to be held responsible for any deficiency." This gave power to the Stewards to move in doubtful cases before the loss was incurred, and would probably meet the case. Carried *nem. con.*

Mr. Jacobsen thought the penalties on the Derby and Leger too heavy and referred the question to the incoming Stewards. Mr. Murray had a small grievance, and Mr. W. H. Forbes introduced the dog-fend and proposed to fine him, but both found no support in the meeting.

The Chairman then impressively alluded to the loss the Club was about to sustain by the departure of Dr. Frazer, who had filled every office and filled it well during a connection of 30 years. As jockey, owner, trainer, Clerk of the Course, Hon. Secretary, etc., he has been all that is implied in the words 'Sportsman' and 'Gentleman'; he would take home with him the hearty good wishes of every man in the Club, and their still more hearty desire for his speedy return. (Great enthusiasm.) A formal resolution embodying the Chairman's remarks was ordered to be entered in the minutes.

The Doctor briefly replied on personal account, and eulogised the great services to the Club of the Chairman.

Votes of thanks were passed to the outgoing stewards amidst loud applause.

The Chairman then referred to the goodly service rendered to the Club by Mr. Jas. Wilson (Clerk of the Scales.), Mr. A. W. H. Bellingham (in numerous capacities), Mr. Fenton (as Secretary, but unhappily about to resign), and Mr. McLeish (the record keeper).

The ballot was then taken for the stewards and resulted in the election of Messrs. J. M. Dickinson, Jas. Steward, A. W. H. Bellingham, W. H. Forbes, W. C. C. Anderson, E. Jacobsen, Dr. Irwin, and O. Mordhorst.

The meeting ended with the usual complimentary vote.

Report.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF CHINA, LIMITED.

Report of the Directors for the year ending 31st December, 1896, to the Shareholders of the National Bank of China, Limited.

Gentlemen—The Directors have now the pleasure to submit to you the accounts and balance sheet for the year ending 31st December, 1896.

The net profits, including \$4,218.84 brought forward from the previous year, after paying all charges, amount to \$62,334.46 from which we propose to transfer \$12,000.00 to the Reserve Fund and to pay the same dividend as before i.e. 2/6 per share, this at 2/1¹/₂ (the demand Sterling rate on 31st December) = \$1.18 out here which absorbs \$47,734.54 leaving the sum of \$2,599.92 to be carried forward to next Account.

Mr. Stolterfoht and Mr. Kwan Hoi Chuen retire in rotation from the Head Office Board and Mr. Wotton from the London Committee, and being eligible for re-election, offer themselves accordingly.

The Accounts at the Head Office have been audited by Messrs. J. H. Cox and W. Hutton Potts, and in London by Messrs. Deloitte, Dever, & Griffiths, Chartered Accountants.

Your obedient Servant,

HERM. STOLTERFOHT.

Chairman.

Hongkong, 9th February, 1897.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st December, 1896.

Liabilities.		\$
Capital, 750 fully paid Founders' Shares of £1 each (at par of 3/-)	5,000.00	
Capital, partly paid, £325,144 (at par of 3/-)	2,167,626.65	
Reserve Fund	70,000.00	
Notes in Circulation	498,785.00	
Fixed Deposits, Current and other Accounts	3,709,150.98	
On Drafts, Acceptances and Endorsements (Bills re-discounted)	2,120,827.76	
Balance of Profit and Loss account	62,334.46	
Total	\$8,633,724.85	

Assets.		\$
Cash on hand and at Bankers	912,470.40	
Government Securities belonging to the Bank	700,236.79	
Bills receivable, Loans and Advances	6,611,379.66	
Furniture, Stationery and stamps	38,830.30	
Adjusting Account (Exchange and Interest)	370,807.70	
Total	\$8,633,724.85	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

31st December, 1896.

Dr.		\$
Charges, Directors' Fees, and Salaries	112,441.43	
Amount to be placed to Reserve Fund	\$12,000.00	
Dividend Account, proposed Payment of \$1.18 per share on 40,453 shares, 2/6 per share at exchange of 2/1 1/2	47,734.54	
Balance to be carried forward to next Account	2,699.92	
Total	\$ 62,334.46	

Total...\$ 174,775.89

Cr.		\$
Balance brought forward from last year	4,218.84	
Gross earnings for year ending 31st December, 1896	170,557.05	
Total	\$174,775.89	

RESERVE FUND.

31st December, 1896.

Dr.		\$
To Amount carried forward	\$82,000.00	
Total	\$82,000.00	

Cr.		\$
By Amount brought forward from last year	\$70,000.00	
„ Amount now to be added, as above	12,000.00	
Total	\$82,000.00	

HERM. STOLTERFOHT,

GEO. W. F. PLATFAIR, Chairman.

Chief Manager.

H. PINCKNEY, Accountant.

D. GILLIES,	} Directors.
CHOW TUNG SHANG,	
CHAN KIT SHAN,	
KWAN HOI CHUEN,	

We have compared the above Statements with the Books, Cash, and Securities at the Head Office, and with the Returns from the Branches, and have found same to be correct, and in our opinion the Balance Sheet is properly drawn up, so as to exhibit a true and correct view of the Bank's affairs as shown by the books. The London Returns have been audited and certified by Messrs. Deloitte, Dever, Griffiths & Co., Chartered Accountants.

JAMES H. COX, } Auditors.

W. HUTTON POTTS, }

Hongkong, 9th February, 1897.

Amusements.

THE FANCY DRESS BALL AT THE CUSTOMS CLUB.

This pleasant function has grown to be an annual event, and one that is eagerly looked forward to by all who have the privilege of attending it. The Committee this year took a new departure in specially decorating the large dancing hall with flags, as the entire ceiling was covered with national standards, which were draped in a graceful form, and the dais at the far end where the band was situated was also screened by flags, Chinese standards naturally taking the centre, and being arranged so as to display the large wooden model of the Customs building which serves as an indicator for the dances in progress. The walls of the hall were further decorated with pennons, shields and trophies of arms, tastefully arranged in keeping with the design of the ceiling adornment, and forming a *coup d'œil* that in itself was very attractive independently of the gaily dressed crowd that thronged the hall.

Invitations had been liberally issued and there were upwards of three hundred hosts and guests assembled, the majority of whom wore fancy dresses. The scene was accordingly a very brilliant one, and it took some time to realise the variety and beauty of the costumes worn. Before the dancing commenced a march round and about the dancing hall was arranged, but even this did not give sufficient opportunity for realising all the varied details of the costumes worn, but the mass of gorgeous colours was, as usual on such occasions, a delight to the eye. It is not possible to enumerate all the dresses worn by the ladies, but some of them deserve special mention for their originality or their beauty. Perhaps the most striking for originality was an arrangement in black and white that represented "Kite"—not the bird but the toy. Neatly made black kites appeared on the white skirt and bodice of the dress, and the large sleeves at present worn were in the form of kites, while a complete black kite was poised over the head, and the fan used was a kite.

"Sport and Gossip" appeared in a form never contemplated by "Daybreak," and was very effective. The wearer's jacket was formed of the newspaper itself, the title being prominent, and the white skirt was adorned with pictorial cuts of sporting and gossiping intentions, while the black silk bell-topper and scarlet vest appropriately suggested the idea of "Sport." The "Gossip," it is presumed, was supplied by the lady's partners. The "American Flag" was displayed by a novel and very graceful dress worn by a young American lady, which was a charming variation on the prosaic dress usually worn for the character, and commanded admiration. A "Quakeress Dancing Girl" in sombre black was decidedly effective and claimed attention, and "1837" was a distinctly clever and pretty creation, thoroughly well carried out in detail, though the enormous bonnet worn must have been a sad hindrance to successful steering in a crowded room by the young lady's partners. A dress that attracted every eye was a "Duchess of Gainsborough," the dress being white and the large hat black velvet, worn over powder, the combination and style forming one of the best costumes at the Ball. "Kate Greenaway" dresses abounded, but the most striking was that of a handsome cardinal and white brocaded skirt, green satin bodice, and cardinal hat, the charming dress being effectively supported by a *chevelure* of old-fashioned ringlets. There was "Starry Night" as usually worn, but "Dark Night" was decidedly a novel and prettily becoming variation of this costume that was very

attractive. "Pierette" in pink and black was a happy conception, and "Cigarette," also in pink, was exceedingly well carried out by aid of the illustrated cards that accompany packets of cigarettes; while "Peanuts" was quaint, the strings of peanuts hanging down the dress being provocative of picking and stealing. The dress of "Anne of Austria" in primrose and white was a magnificent costume, and "Mary, Mary, quite contrary," in pink with white flowers, was a dainty and pretty arrangement. The character of "Winter Sports" was well represented by a red bodice and white skirt, the wearer having a gun hung on one side, while from the other dangled a bugle and fox brush, a pheasant forming the head-dress. Another good dress was that of the "British Navy," the Union Jack being prominent on a blue skirt while bullion epaulets and miniature life-buoys completed the symbol. There were several good Pompadour and Empire dresses, and "La Mascotte" was present to bring good luck and admiration on all "powder" costumes. Flowers were not so generally represented as is usually the case, but Madame Chrysanthème was an excellent representative of the class. There was a merry Contadina and her companion, who reminded one of the charms of Italy's sunny skies, and a pretty Contrabandista whose bright eyes would have played havoc with any intrusive Customs officer. Peasants there were of all descriptions, the majority of whom wore very charming dresses, and one Swedish peasant's dress was the real thing, the head-dress being very quaint and peculiar. There were several Nurses in various shades of grey; a representative of the Red Cross Society, and a smart Virandière to cheer the soldiery with comfort of another kind. A very well got up "Aunt" kept a peanut stall in one corner of the room, and steadily declined numerous attentions that were proffered her. There were, of course, a number of pretty but somewhat nondescript dresses, which it is impossible to enumerate, pleasing though they were by reason of their great variety.

Among the dresses worn by the men there was not much novelty, but there were some strikingly effective costumes of the 16th and 17th centuries. The A.D.C. wardrobe had been largely drawn upon, and several well-known stage dresses were recognised, the most noticeable being the costume of "Casilda" that originally appeared in the "Bundoliers," worn by a large waisted "damsel" of over six feet. "Yeomen of the Guard" and "Gondoliers" were numerous; a dignified Cleric hob-nobbed with a Cowboy; an Australian Prospector rubbed shoulders with a Monk, and an Eton Boy took charge of a six-foot Baby, while Costers and Clowns played tricks with Spanish Noblemen, Armenian Atrocities, and doleful Niggers. The New Woman was in evidence and Queen's Counsel found relaxation in the mazy dance, *vis-à-vis* a swarthy Javanese, while the hideous dress of "Auctioneer" was very conspicuous. There were uniforms of every imaginable description and nationality, a great variety of Sailors' dresses, and very many powder costumes, some without the powder. Realism was carried to the utmost by one guest wearing a complete Diver's dress, who delivered the programmes at the door of the dancing hall, and it is needless to add that he was compelled to be seated. Scotland and Ireland were represented, and the Gentleman of the Future was rather too much in evidence, as so many had contented themselves with wearing coloured silk facings to their dress coats. A "Study in Black and Red" suggested that diphtheria was prevalent in Shanghai, and the wearer of the excellent dress of "Gold Seal" could not possibly have represented an extra second brand.

There were eighteen dances and two extras on the programme, and dancing was kept up until an early hour. The music pro-

CLARKE'S WORLD-FAMED BLOOD MIXTURE.
—"The most searching Blood Cleanser that science and medical skill have brought to light." Sufferers from Scrofula, Scurvy, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples, and Sores of any kind are solicited to give it a trial to test its value. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it, of which everywhere at 2s. 9d. per bottle. Beware of worthless imitations and substitutes.

vided was very good, but the experiment of trying to dance the Caledonians to Irish airs was not a success. A very good supper was provided in the lower room, and was attacked after the ninth dance on the programme. The Ball was very enjoyable, and the comfort of the guests was well looked after by energetic Stewards, the following being the list of officials to whom the success of the undertaking was due:—

President, Ls. Rocher (ex officio); Vice-President, J. M. Land; Hon. Secretary, J. H. Macoun; Hon. Treasurer, T. Moorehead; Hon. Steward, F. McLavy.

Committee: J. McBain, T. Mellows, E. A. Schaumlöffel, A. Smith, G. Taylor, L. F. de Uriarte.

Ball Committee: J. Dawson, J. M. Land, F. McLavy, J. H. Macoun, T. Moorhead, E. H. de Ste. Croix, Hon. Sec., L. F. de Uriarte, Hon. Treas.

Stewards: R. Agnew, E. Björnson, J. W. Blanchfield, W. Carlson, C. Carsia, E. Hubbard, P. H. King, W. B. Russell, J. Thomas.

THE SHANGHAI PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.

The twenty-sixth subscription concert which the Philharmonic Society gave on Wednesday evening in the Lyceum Theatre, can be regarded with satisfaction either as an indication of the standard of musical taste in Shanghai, or of the ability of the performers. It was ambitious, perhaps, and on this account the measure of success attained was all the more gratifying, the instrumental pieces being fully appreciated, whilst the songs were re-demanded in every instance but one. Commander Vela, to whom the Society owes so much, is therefore to be congratulated upon having provided another evening of delightful music. The overture by Halévy, which began the concert, was conscientiously given, but the orchestra had more success in Massenet's beautiful composition which concluded the first part and opened the second. Amongst music enthusiasts in Shanghai there has for some time been a natural anxiety to essay the work, and its production here for the first time added importance to the programme. Allowing for the difficulties of some of the movements, the performance was highly successful, and though, of course, more practice would have led nearer to perfection, the musicians reaped the reward of their courage in well-deserved applause which evinced the enjoyment of the hearers. Mrs. Baradas' rendering of Liszt's "Rhapsodie Hongroise" No. 2, was highly commendable, but the selection is a trifle ambitious on the part of an amateur. There was only one vocal number in the first part, Blumenthal's "My Queen," which was sung by Dr. Cooper, but in the second half there was some artistic singing by Mrs. Walter Schärff and Mr. L. Phillip. Mrs. Schärff's admirable singing of Luigi Luzzi's setting of "Ave Maria," and Schumann's passionate "Widmung" exercised an irresistible charm, and responding to the call for an encore she gave Grieg's "Ich liebe dich," a song which still further illustrated the success of the singer in a selection in every way suited to her. The more or less familiar orchestral pieces, Gounod's "Vision de Jeanne d'Arc" and Czibulka's bewitching "Après le Bal," were happily interpreted, and then Mr. L. Phillip used his pleasing voice successfully in Schumann's well-known "Die beiden Grenadiere," which won the compliment of an encore. The programme was fulfilled by a pretty *morceau*, Thomé's "Simple Aveu."

THE SMOKING CONCERT CLUB.

On Saturday night the Smoking Concert Club gave its first entertainment in the Lyceum Theatre, and the success achieved must have been very gratifying to those who are responsible for the Club's foundation. In according praise it is not necessary to say it was the cleverest and most amusing evening's amusement of the kind, but when the youth of the organisation, and the rapidity with which the programme was arranged are taken into account, the fact of it deserving some commendation is undeniable. The founding of such a Club is no light undertaking for, however easy it may be to get an audience, there is a surprising display of modesty when new talent is sought for. The performers, too, when enrolled have not that familiarity with each other's characteristics to allow of combination, and therefore a first concert depends almost entirely upon individual exertions, and, however conscientious these may be, they do not always maintain the same level of excellence. But having commenced so well, the Smoking Concert Club will before long be reckoned as one of the standard entertaining agencies of the Settlement. Already, as Mr. Fred W. Such, the Chairman, explained in the course of his short address of explanation and welcome which prefaced the programme, the Club has 180 members, who have joined it within a month, attracted by the prospect of "a good song or a recitation, and an evening of social jollity."

The programme which had been drawn up was as follows:—

PART I.

- 1.—Overture—"Polka de la Reine" ... Raff.
Mr. H. Vinay.
- 2.—Song—"Thy daily question" ... E. Meyer Helmund.
Mr. J. Mann.
- 3.—Comic Song—"What do you think?" ... F. Osmond Carr.
Mr. H. Goodfellow.
- 4.—Recitation—"Sheltered" Anon
Mr. T. Brown.

Interval of 15 Minutes.

PART II.

- 1.—Banjo Solo
Mr. Basagoiti.
- 2.—Comic Song—"The finest flow 'o langwidge ever 'eard" Le Brun.
Mr. W. Bates.
- 3.—Song—"The Merry Monk" Fred. Bevan.
Mr. H. S. Hart.
- 4.—Comic Song—"That'll doodle - doodle - doodle - doodle-do" T. E. Dunville
Mr. A. L. Hall.

Interval of 15 Minutes.

PART III.

- 1.—Pot Pourri
Mr. A. Linton.
- 2.—Comic Song—"My first Wife" J. W. Hall.
Mr. E. P. Hudson.
- 3.—Song—"Ho! Jolly Jenkin" ... Sullivan.
Mr. W. L. Richards.
- 4.—Comic Song—"Juh Jah" ... James Fawn.
Mr. E. V. D. Parr.

Commencing shortly after nine the concert was over by half-past eleven, in spite of several singers having to respond to undeniable encores, so that the performance was completed at a convenient hour. The first part of the programme, though enjoyable, did not evoke so much enthusiasm as its successors, due, perhaps, to the deficiencies of the Theatre as a place for smoking concerts, and also to the fact that the somewhat frigid arrangement of seats delayed for a while that formation into friendly groups and circles which is the characteristic of the smoking concert. But

as the evening wore on the house entered into the spirit of the occasion with greater heartiness, and put into the very best humour by the really excellent banjo playing of Mr. Basagoiti—the performer was twice re-called—they vigorously applauded the two comic songs which Mr. W. Bates sang as cleverly as ever, and the amusing absurdity which Mr. A. L. Hall perpetrated with complete success. In fact the comic song carried all before it, notably in the case of Mr. E. P. Hudson, who made his *début* before a Shanghai audience, and Mr. E. V. D. Parr, who gave a clever patter song. In the third part, Mr. R. Sutherland, masquerading as the trainer of a sagacious giraffe, and for whose appearance the audience had been prepared by a leaflet in the programme, was responsible for a brief act in the style of the well-known Blondin Donkey, which provoked a good deal of laughter. Though humour predominated, there were some pleasing songs of sentiment, and Mr. T. Brown is to be congratulated upon not having made a greater failure with so lugubrious and uninteresting a recitation as "Sheltered."

"DER RAUB DER SABINERINNEN" AT THE CONCORDIA CLUB.

PERSONEN:

Martin Gollwitz, Professor.	Herr Liwmehl.
Friederike, dessen Frau	... Frau Kebrévo.
Paula, dessen Tochter	, Racla.
Dr. Neumeister	 Herr Koltat.
Marianne, seine Frau	 Frau Yllim.
Karl Gross	 Herr B. R. Kowsky.
Emil Gross, genannt Stern	, Toast.
Emanuel Striese, Theater-	director
Rosa, Dienstmädchen bei	Gollwitz
August, Diener bei Neu-	meister
Meissner, Schuldienner	, Nansen.
Regie	, Liwmehl.
Decoration	, Lettim.

Those who assembled under the hospitable roof of the Concordia Club on Thursday evening last, (the 18th), under the impression that they were going to be treated to the portrayal of a celebrated episode in classical history were of course disappointed but not disagreeably so. Unacquainted as probably the majority of people outside Germany are with the famous comedy of Franz and Paul von Schönthan, a large number of the visitors might have been pardoned for indulging in the belief, that they were about to see the stage thronged with fair representatives of the ancient Sabines, subjected to the unholy importunities of the bold and miscrepulous Romans, and the little lady in the audience who naively asked whether the lady performers were those who were to be forcibly carried away is therefore not to be blamed for her innocent interrogation. Instead of a tragedy we had indeed its very antithesis. Comedy of the richest kind, consisting as it did of smart repartee, ludicrous situations, involved plot and counterplot, may be said to permeate the play. It would be impossible in the narrow confines of a short newspaper notice, to detail the intricacies of the piece, or to give even a brief outline of it. It is almost as inextricably complex as the soliloquies of Hamlet, but it has this advantage over the melancholy broodings of Shakespeare's hero, that whereas his remain still unravelled, the *dénouement* of "Der Raub der Sabinerinnen" explains everything. To give the barest description (and it must in nowise be thought to be anything else) a Professor, who, in his early days has spent the midnight oil upon a tragedy on the Rape of the Sabines, is desirous, as all authors are with the firstfruits of their brain, to see it placed before the public gaze. He gets a Mr. Striese to produce it, and as his wife is averse to theatrical performances and is staying at the seaside, he

implores her to stay another week, hoping by that time to get the play through. Just however as he has placed the portrait of the leading actress on his desk, his wife and daughter suddenly return from their holiday, and finding the portrait, not unnaturally conclude that the said Professor is a gay Lothario, but the domestic felicity is preserved by the wife eventually discovering the true cause of the portrait's presence. The performance of the Professor's play when it eventually comes off, is ruined by an obtrusive parrot which the manager stupidly insisted should be on the stage, and which interpolates the most side-splitting remarks in the middle of the King's most dignified utterances. Subsidiary to this there is of course a love episode, which brings into prominence not the stereotyped "woman" but the "man with a past," and we have also the laudable servant girl who, according to the smartly written argument on the programme, "looks after the household's management in general; listens attentively to the Professor reciting his verses; informs herself of the contents of her employer's private letters before posting them; looks through the holes; takes tips from visitors; lets every stranger know the family's doings, and shows herself as honest and faithful as can only be expected from a proper housemaid at home." The part of the Professor was very well sustained by Herr Liwmehl, his conception of the poor hen-pecked husband being we suppose perfectly correct, but this of course will be best judged by those in a similar position to himself. Friederike, his spouse, was in the capable hands of Frau Kebrévo, who played with much vigour and intelligence. It was a matter of regret that Frau Racla in the part of Paula, the charming daughter of the Professor, had so little to do, inasmuch as both her beauty and her charming acting entitle her to greater things. We could not help wishing to see her in the rôle of Desdemona or Ophelia, and it is to be hoped that in future performances something really worthy of her marked ability will be allotted her. Dr. Neumeister was well represented by Herr Koltat, who in the scene where he takes upon his shoulders the frivolities of the lover Emil Gross displayed remarkable talent. Frau Yllim in the part of Marianne was simply charming in every aspect; she played the confiding wife to perfection, though it is difficult to believe that a woman could be so far imposed upon by her husband as to be convinced of the truth of such a story as he relates to her, and still more incredible that a husband would ever do such a thing as to "own up" to frivolities he had never indulged in. Karl Gross and Emil Gross, taken respectively by Herr Kowsky and Herr Toast, were characters well thought out, the latter being particularly well done, especially in the love-scene. Rose was a bonny servant girl, and was right bonnily played by Frau Spielratz. Such a housemaid would cause no end of heart-aching amongst the policemen in the vicinity of her kitchen. The rôles of August and Meissner, though not exacting, required proper treatment, and this they received at the hands of Herren Nante and Nansen. We have reserved until the last our reference to Mr. Lettim's masterly delineation of the theatre director, Striese. He may be said without exaggeration to have been the pivot on which the play turned, and in his excruciatingly funny face contortions, and that "fooling" which is so essential to the comedian, he was not an unworthy rival of Toole or John Hare. Indeed there are many on the professional stage who would envy him his marvellous powers. The management was in the capable hands of Herr Liwmehl and Herr Lettim, and to say that the performance went off without a single hitch is the best tribute we can give to the work performed by them in this direction. The audience was

large and appreciative, and was composed of the "light and leading" of Shanghai, and a general wish was expressed that ere long another dramatic feast will be provided by the talented amateurs who performed on Thursday.

THE SHANGHAI LIGHT HORSE.

MAJOR MORRISON'S COMPETITION.

The competition for Major Morrison's Cup took place on Sunday morning between two troops of the Shanghai Light Horse. The start was from Clatter Bridge at ten o'clock, the first point being the Box Hedge top of the Fahwah line (in charge of Sergt. Moses), the second point the Cow Bridge (in charge of Sergt. Pirie), and the finish being over the Light Horse Creek, where Major Mackenzie was Judge. At about the appointed hour, 10 o'clock, Major Clarke started the first troop in command of Lieut. Porter, and consisting of T. S. M. Dyer, Corporal Phillippo, Troopers Bridges, Middleton, Graham, and Forbes. Fifteen minutes later the second, or B troop, was started, under Corporal Gardner and including Troopers Des Voeux, Pallanjee, Henningsen, Craven, Boyce-Kup, Mosberg, and Uriarte. Before the second point B troop lost a man owing to a bad fall and losing his pony, causing a delay of ten minutes. This troop started with one more man than A troop, who eventually won, the times being A troop 23mins. 47secs., B troop 30mins. 1sec. Although the going was heavy the ride was a most pleasurable one.

THE POINT TO POINT STEPLECHASE.

The start for this race on Wednesday was at Trafancha, where thirteen troopers faced the starter, Major Brodie Clarke, who despatched them at three minutes past four. Bridges, on a griffin, made the pace over to the Jessfield Road, although several men took their own line through the two villages and over the Light Horse Creek. Bridges accompanied by the main body arrived at the Jessfield Line and reached the Red Joss House, the order of reaching the point, the Plum Tree, which was kept by Surgeon-Captain Lalca and Sergeant Moses, the time being now 4h. 20m., was as follows: Bridges, Forbes, Pallanjee, Craven, Phillippo, Dyer, Des Voeux, Watts, the Hon. Sec. being last. On leaving the Plum Tree, Bridges still led, followed by Craven, Forbes, and Pallanjee, the remainder being some way behind. On reaching the Fahwah Wade, Bridges essayed it and got through. Forbes, on *Cato*, turned to the right and went through the village. Pallanjee and Craven missed their way, and took some time to find it again. Meanwhile a dingdong race down the Fahwah line resulted in Forbes being first over the last jump, but he was beaten on the post by Bridges by about a length, Trooper Bridges winning the heavy-weight prize, and Trooper Forbes the light-weight. Major Clarke was judge. The rest finished more or less in a bunch, Pallanjee and Craven being third and fourth respectively, both well up. There were a good number of spectators, and the going was very good indeed, except on the low-lying land. After the finish the prizes were presented by Mrs. H. G. Gardner, the wife of the Hon. Sec., the winners being introduced by Captain Liddell. Mrs. Gardner said:—

Mr. Bridges:—
I have much pleasure in handing you the prize you have so gallantly won, I trust that in all your efforts for supremacy in the future you may be as successful as to-day.

Mr. Forbes:—
I congratulate you heartily on winning this prize and I hope that your success to-day is only the forerunner of many similar successes in the future.

Hearty cheers were given for Mrs. Gardner, and for the Captain of the Troop, whose resignation, forced on him by pressure of business, is deeply regretted, and whose loss will be greatly felt; also for the winners and for the ladies, not forgetting the customary tigers. The time was under 25 minutes, which considering the going was a very creditable performance, and the whole show was a great success.

SHOOTING.

ARTILLERY MONTHLY CUP.

The Artillery Monthly competition took place on Tuesday and yesterday mornings at 400 and 500 yards respectively, and resulted in a victory for Gunner Dahl for the first time who made the splendid total of 67 points. There were 19 competitors.

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

RACE MEETING 1897.

(By Courtesy of the Telegraph Companies.)

THIRD DAY,

Friday, 19th February, 1897.

1.—THE GRAND STAND STAKES.—Value \$150. Second Pony to receive \$50; Third, \$25. For China Ponies *bona fide* Griffins on date of entry. Winners of one race 5lbs. extra; of two races 7lbs. extra; and of three or more races 9lbs. extra. Subscription Griffins non-winners allowed 5lbs. Entrance \$5. Once Round.

Mr. David's grey <i>Aspirant</i> (Mr. Sampson)	10 12...1
" Buxey's black <i>Black Rock</i> (Mr. Reynell)	10 12...2
Messrs. McKie and Gove's black <i>Glendubb</i> (Mr. Crawford)	10 9...3

Seven starters. Won by several lengths. Time, 1min. 55secs.

2.—THE CIVIL SERVICE PURSE.—Presented. Second Pony to receive half the entrance fees. For Subscription Griffins of this season, 1896-97. Weight for inches as per scale. Previous Winners 7lbs. extra. Penalties accumulative. Entrance \$5. One Mile.

Mr. Stern's grey <i>Dacapo</i> (Mr. Crawford)	10 12...1
Messrs. G. Stewart & Loveband's dun <i>Hastaway</i> (Mr. Loveband)	11 4...2
Dr. Noble's grey <i>Humbly</i> (Mr. Master)	11 1...3

Seven starters. Time, 2mins. 13secs.

3.—THE CHALLENGE CUP.—Value 100 guineas. For China Ponies. To be won two years consecutively by a Pony or Ponies the *bona fide* property of the same Owner. First Pony to receive 70 per cent; Second, 20 per cent; Third, 10 per cent of entrance fees. Weight for inches as per scale. Entrance (forced) \$5, but optional to Subscription Griffins of this season, 1896-97. One mile and three quarters.

Mr. Buxey's dun <i>Surprise</i> (Mr. Reynell)	10 12...1
" Gustav's dun <i>Blue-fire</i> (Mr. Crawford)	11 1 2
" John Peel's chestnut <i>Pineapple</i> (Mr. Master)	10 9...3

Five starters. Time, 3mins. 53secs.

4.—THE LADIES' PURSE.—For all China Ponies. Weight for inches as per scale. Winners at this Meeting other than Subscription Griffins 5lbs. extra. Unplaced Ponies allowed 5lbs. Previous non-starters at this Meeting 12lbs. extra. Entrance \$5. Seven furlongs.

Messrs. McKie and Gove's chestnut <i>Roilet</i> (Mr. Crawford)	11 1...1
Mr. John Peel's chestnut <i>Heatherbell</i> (Mr. Master)	11 1...2
" Dryadust's dun <i>Shiney William</i> (Mr. Hunt)	11 4...3

Seven starters. Time, 1min. 51secs.

5.—THE ROBINSON CHALLENGE CUP.—Presented by H.E. Sir Wm. Robinson, K.C.M.G. For Subscription Griffiths of this season. To be won twice by ponies the *bond fide* property of the same owner or owners. First Pony to receive 70 per cent of the entrance fees; Second 20 per cent; Third 10 per cent. Weight for inches as per scale. Winner of the German and/or Tai Yeuk Fong Cups 10lbs. extra, winners of any other races 5lbs. extra. Entrance fee \$10. One Mile and a Half.

Messrs. McKie and Gove's grey
Gleniffer (Mr. Crawford).....11 1..1
Mr. Dryasdust's grey *Gauntlet* (Mr. Hunt).....10 12..2
Dr. Noble's grey *Humbug* (Mr. Master).....11 1..3

Eight starters. Time, 3mins. 27½secs.

6.—THE PARSEE CUP.—Presented. Second Pony to receive \$50. For China Ponies. Weight for inches as per scale. Winners of one race at this Meeting 5lbs. extra; of two or more races 7lbs. extra. Unplaced Ponies allowed 5lbs. Entrance \$10. One Mile and a Quarter.

Mr. Buxey's white *White Rose* (Mr. Reynell).....11 1..1
" David's grey *Foreman* (Mr. Jones) 10 12..2
" John Peel's dun *Boomerang* (Mr. Master).....10 12..2

Six starters. Dead heat for second place, won by a head. Time, 2mins. 45secs.

7.—THE PHAETON STAKES.—Value \$250. Second pony to receive 70 per cent of entrance fees; Third, 30 per cent. For China ponies *bond fide* griffins on date of entry. Weight for inches as per scale. Previous winners at this meeting 5lbs. extra. Penalties accumulative. Unplaced ponies allowed 5lbs. Subscription griffins of the season, 1896-97, allowed 7lbs. Entrance \$5.—From the Two-Mile Post Once Round and in.

Messrs. McKie and Gove's skewbald
Glenmore (Mr. Crawford).....11 1..1
Mr. John Peel's grey *Silver Bell* (Mr. Master).....10 9..2
" Buxey's black *Black Rock* (Mr. Reynell).....10 12..3

Eight starters. Time, 2mins. 22secs.

8.—THE CONSOLATION STAKES.—A Sweepstakes of \$5 each with \$100 added. Second pony to receive \$50. For beaten China ponies at this meeting. Weight for inches as per scale.—Once Round.

Mr. John Peel's dun *Boomerang* (Mr. Master).....10 12..1
" John Peel's bay *Tocsin* (Mr. Gresson).....11 4..2
" Arnold's dun *Straightforward* (Mr. Sampson).....10 9..3

Eight starters. Time, 1min. 55½secs.

9.—THE CHAMPION STAKES.—With \$250 added. For China Ponies winners at this Meeting only. A forced entry. Entrance \$20; winner of two races \$30; of three or more \$50. Weight for inches as per scale. One Mile and a Half.

Messrs. McKie and Gove's chestnut
Roiletot (Mr. Crawford).....11 1..1
Mr. Dryasdust's grey *Sinbad* (Mr. Hunt).....10 9..2
" John Peel's bay *Red Fish* (Mr. Master).....11 1..3
" John Peel's chestnut *Pineapple*.....10 9..0
" Boyd's grey *Dunblane*.....11 1..0
" David's grey *Aspirant*.....10 12..0
" Dryasdust's skewbald *Provoost*.....11 1..0
" Buxey's black *Black Eagle*.....11 1..0
Messrs. McKie and Gove's skewbald
Glenmore.....11 1..0
Mr. Buxey's dun *Surprise*.....10 12..0

Time, 3mins. 18½secs.

10.—THE NIL DESPERANDUM STAKES.—A Sweepstakes of \$5 each with \$50 added. Second Pony to receive \$50; Third Pony \$25. For beaten Subscription Griffiths of this season, 1896-97. Weight for inches as per scale. Half a Mile.

The Neighbours' grey *Landsturm* (Mr. Jones).....11 7..1
Mr. Buxey's grey *Sport* (Mr. Loveband).....11 4..2
" Tilbro's grey *Wakeful Joe* (Mr. Master).....10 9..2

Ten starters. Dead heat for second place. Time, 1min. 2secs.

OFF DAY.

Saturday, 20th February, 1897.

1.—THE GLEN CUP.—One Mile. at. lbs.
Mr. Dryasdust's grey *Gauntlet* (Mr. Hunt).....10 12..1
" Buxey's grey *Sport* (Mr. Cox).....11 4..2

Time, 2mins. 17½secs.

2.—"RED FISH" CUP.—One Mile and a Half.
Mr. David's grey *Foreman* (Mr. Jones) 10 12..1
" Gustav's dun *Blue-fire* (Mr. Master).....11 1..2
" Trio's brown *Polo* (Mr. Sampson) 10 12..3

Time, 3mins. 27½secs.

3.—LUCKY CUP.—Three Quarters of a Mile.

Mr. Tilbro's grey *Wakeful Joe* (Mr. H. Sampson).....10 9..1
" Sam's chestnut *Sunflower* (Mr. Penny).....10 12..2
" Wayfoong's brown *Cumshaw* (Mr. Jones).....11 1..3

Time, 1min. 40secs.

4.—MAFOOS CHAMPIONS.—One Mile and a Quarter.
Mr. Boyd's grey *Dunblane*.....11 1..1
" John Peel's dun *Boomerang*.....10 12..2
" Buxey's black *Black Eagle*.....11 1..3

Time, 2mins. 39secs.

5.—HONGKONG STEEPLECHASE.—
Mr. Worthy's dun *Bellringer* (Mr. Cox).....11 4..1

Three starters did not finish.

6.—"PINEAPPLE" CUP.—One Mile and a Quarter.

Mr. Buxey's chestnut *Comet* (Mr. Cox).....11 1..0
" Trio's brown *Polo* (Mr. Loveband).....10 12..2
" Jay's grey *Sperber* (Mr. Master) 11 1..3

Time, 2mins. 44secs.

7.—MAFOOS RACE.—Once Round.

Mr. John Peel's bay *Tocsin*.....11 4..1
" Boyd's bay *Congo*.....11 1..2
" Arnold's dun *Straightforward*.....10 9..3

Time, 1min. 55secs.

Correspondence.

THE IMPERIAL POST OFFICE.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—There are two or three points that should be carefully considered in regard to the proposed new postal arrangements. One is touched in the remark of the Hongkong Postmaster-General, as to the service being satisfactory "under Sir Robert Hart's direction." But what, after him?—the deluge!—with the foreign machinery uprooted and foreigners left at the mercy of whom?

Then, if the Municipality part with their post-office, what security have we as to the rates to be charged on our local postage? The Chinese have become proverbial for applying extra squeezes after having made a bargain—see their constant evasions of treaties, akin squeezes, etc., etc. In fact they have thereby so ruined their reputation that they cannot be trusted.

A decided grievance in the present Customs postal arrangements is the very low minimum weight for a letter. A decent-sized sheet of good note paper and similar envelope weigh over a quarter of an ounce, and as that is an ordinary, everyday "chit" it is unfair to squeeze a double postage by fixing a weight which must frequently just catch the public with an extra postage.

I am, etc.,

CIVIS.

19th February.

"NOT THE RECKLESS DRIVER."

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—I think many of your readers will agree with me in regarding "J. C. P. A.'s" strictures on the 'ricsha coolies, headed as above, as harshly unjust. After ten years' constant employment of these men, I can testify to their almost unflinching competency, carefulness, and civility; and certainly in their collisions with carriages they have been the "sinned against" in every instance hitherto cited in your columns. I believe that any difficulty in obtaining a 'ricsha in bad weather is most unusual; and these poor fellows' sometimes pressing offers of service can hardly be resented in view of the miserable payment for which they are content to incur life-shortening labours, hardships, and privations.

I am, etc.,

FIAT JUSTITIA.

19th February.

"FIAT JUSTITIA."

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—It is clear that "Fiat Justitia" is a "ricsha" coolie going through life with his head down and his eyes shut. "Careful" is good; but "unflinching competency" is better!! Has he never seen a "careful" coolie rush suddenly under a pony's nose to cross a road or turn a corner, without the least regard for any vehicle passing? Has he not seen the hundreds of coolies, who are so weak and useless, that they should not be permitted by the police to pull a "ricsha" at all? If he has not seen these things he must be blind. And as to their "miserable payment;" why do they come in thousands from far and near? If "Fiat etc." knew what he was writing about, he would be aware that this employment is about the most paying one here for the coolie class.

As a user of ricshas and one who has suffered from the coolies' carelessness and incompetency I subscribe myself

Yours, etc.,

EXPERIENTIA.

20th February.

Holloway's Pills and Ointment.—Influenza, Coughs and Colds.—In diseases of the throat and chest, so prevalent in our changeable climate, nothing so speedily relieves, or so certainly cures, as these inestimable remedies. These disorders are too often neglected at their commencement, or are injudiciously treated, resulting in either case in disastrous consequences. Whatever the condition of the patient, Holloway's remedies will restore, if recovery be possible; they will retard the alarming symptoms till the blood is purified and nature consummates the cure, gradually restoring strength and vital nervous power. By persevering in the use of Holloway's preparations, tone is conferred on the stomach and frame generally. Thousands of persons have testified that by the use of these remedies alone they have been restored to health after every other means had failed. (14)

WYLIE'S MEMORABILIA.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—It seems desirable to mention to the subscribers to the above work, that the publication of it is proceeding as fast as possible. About two-thirds of the book has already been printed, in all fully 300 pages, and the remainder will be carried through the press as quickly as can be done.

I am, etc.,

WM. MUIRHEAD.

22nd February.

A VOICE FROM THE BEYOND.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—A copy of your very interesting paper reached us here lately, a somewhat rare event, as nearly all the arrivals from your part of the world are Chinese, and unacquainted with the English language; however, an occasional foreign merchant or official does sometimes find Rhadamanthus in an amiable mood, and one such brought with him the copy referred to; in it, curiously enough, I found a letter from one of those black-coated gentlemen who, since the appearance of my great work, *monumentum ere, perennius* have persistently labelled me with the offensively meant title of "the infidel Gibbon." I was the more amused to find that he actually takes seriously that sop to Cerberus which I, writing in an intolerant age, was obliged to throw to the public before entering on my philosophic enquiry into the real causes of the phenomenon under examination. The reverend gentleman may be sure that had I, in a Mussulman country, been discussing the reasons for the similar spread of the Mussulman religion which recent arrivals from Africa, themselves mostly Moslems, inform me of, I should have used precisely the same exordium.

I trust that the New Postal System, which we hear is to extend its scope even beyond us to Pluto's domain, will succeed in conveying this to you, accompanied by the assurance of the admiration inspired by your able pen in your obedient servant,

EDWARD GIBBON.

Elysian Fields, 25th February.

THE JACOB CASE.

The following letters have been handed to us for publication:—

Yokohama, 13th February, 1897.

MADAM,—I am at this moment, and for the first time, in receipt of proof which is conclusive to my mind that you were not the writer of the A.L. letters; and I now hasten to ask you to accept that apology which I have heretofore been unable conscientiously to offer you, for the pain and mental suffering to which you have been put in consequence of the charge I considered it my duty to prefer against you, and which I am now convinced was unfounded.

Very faithfully,

J. F. LOWDER.

Miss MARY ESTHER JACOB.

No. 2, Bluff.

Yokohama, 13th February, 1897.

J. F. LOWDER, Esq., Present.

SIR,—On behalf of my client, Miss Mary Esther Jacob, I have to acknowledge, with thanks, your letter of this date, addressed to her.

I am, Sir, yours sincerely,

Geo. H. SCHIDMORE.

—Japan Mail.

Miscellaneous.

THE SHANGHAI PUBLIC SCHOOL.

[COMMUNICATED.]

The Shanghai Public School question has been freely ventilated, the Education Committee freely abused, and quite sufficient said to cause annoyance to those who have given several years to the creation of an Education Department of our Local Government, and unintentional pain to those who are now not unnaturally touched to the quick on what is all the world over a thorny subject. It may be well therefore before judgment is pronounced at the Annual Inquisition on Unpaid Officialdom, to be held on the 7th prox., to place before the Inquisitors a statement of facts and a chronological record.

1.—No provision is contemplated in the "Land Regulations," which are the Constitution of our Local Government, for Education of any kind whatsoever.

This is a primary consideration, confirmed by—

2.—That the Council for the Foreign Settlements North of the Yangkingpang, or in plainer words the Local or Municipal Government, for more than fifty years took no direct steps to promote the education of any one, either Western, Eurasian, or Eastern.

3.—The first school started or supported by other (or partially other) than private enterprise or purse was the Masonic School in 1886.

4.—The Masonic School did not lay down an "exclusion law" against Eurasians in the first instance, but in the same year Eurasians were excluded, though without prying into the mystical archives of Freemasonry the reasons cannot be published.

5.—In 1889 the Masonic Body, which then educated children *only* of Western parentage, handed over their school to Mr. Lanning, who, to make both ends meet, took all the scholars he could find without distinction of Western or Eurasian.

6.—In 1892 the Local Government (authorised by a vote of the Ratepayers) gave an annual grant to Mr. Lanning's school and an Education Committee was formed.

7.—In 1893, under an agreement between the Local Government and the Masonic School Fund, the school furniture and the lease of the Peking Road premises (which meanwhile had been used by Mr. Lanning) were conveyed to the Local Government, which undertook for evermore to give free education to four children nominated from time to time by the Masonic Body.

8.—The Council did not then embark on the perilous and contentious road of Public Education but located and paid for these scholars with Mr. Lanning who then ran a so-called public school on his own account and risk.

9.—At the Annual Meeting of Ratepayers in 1894, amidst general jubilation and with apparently the unanimous approval and cheers of the Ratepayers, a large sum of public money was voted for the erection of a Public School, and no one reading the report of that meeting can deny that although not specifically mentioned in any resolution, it was distinctly intimated and approved that the one object of the school was the education of the children of foreign, i.e. Western, residents, who in the conditions of the life then and now ruling were unable to afford to send their children to Europe or America—in fact that was the sole argument in favour of the immediate and annual expenditure, and it was solely on that ground that the votes were authorised.

10.—We come to 1897.—Children of Western parentage have enormously or prolifically increased and the school has justified its existence by its success—the Education Committee are pressed with applications for admittance. Of the present Scholars 180 out of 200 are of Western parentage, and the 20 Eurasians could be replaced by Westerns.

11.—It must be borne in mind that the Ratepayers whilst annually agreeing to a vote of Tls. 4,000 for the assistance of ways and means at the Public School have also given an exactly similar amount amongst the three prominent Eurasian schools, viz., the "Thomas Hanbury," St. Xavier's, and "La Providence."

I venture to think that if Ratepayers will carefully consider these facts they will at least see that the Education Committee have acted on what they believed to be the instructions of the Ratepayers and will refrain from embarrassing those who are voluntarily devoting much care to Educational interests; show their confidence in those they have elected and at least leave the Council such discretionary powers as may be required; for should they not do so, it is obvious that not only may the Public School be wrecked and go to auction, but that those deserving educational institutions, the St. Xavier, the Thomas Hanbury, and La Providence may lose the grants which now keep them afloat.

N.B.—There is an old saying: "Do not cut off your nose to spite your face."

INDIAN FAMINE RELIEF FUND.

Sir Nicholas Hannen begs to acknowledge with many thanks the following subscriptions on behalf of the Indian Famine Relief Fund:—

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THE PHILIPPINE REBELLION.

THE ATTACK ON CAVITE PROVINCE.

We have to thank Senor Navarro, the Spanish Consul, for a copy of the following telegram:—

Manila, 16th February.

The General-in-Chief communicates the following simultaneous attacks. The squadron feigned to disembark at Naic, with a guerilla force of Naval Volunteers from the Spanish Casino; Bocoar was also bombarded from the batteries of Dalahican; feigned attack on Noveleta; General Lachambre arrived at Santo Domingo with columns from Binang and Calamba advancing towards Sailang; General Joramillo took Tranquero fort, near Buymyum, at the point of the bayonet, and found eight dead bodies, our loss in the attack being two dead and five wounded; Colonel Barraquer after hard fighting took Pamplona, on the river Zapote, an entrenched position armed with a number of small guns and defended by 2,000 rebels, and in the pursuit our troops killed hundreds of the latter, our loss being one officer and eighteen soldiers killed, two officers and forty-three soldiers wounded. At the last moment General Joramillo took the fort of Bigay, where he found several small guns and a large quantity of other arms; the rebels left thirty-five dead, our loss being seven dead and two officers and twenty-eight soldiers wounded.—*Hongkong Daily Press*, 18th Feb.

A CRIMINAL TRIAL IN PEKING

Readers will remember an account given not long ago, by our Newchwang correspondent, of the capture by Peking detectives, in that port, of a noted brigand and murderer, named K'ang, who had eloped with the infatuated daughter of a high Manchu official of the Imperial Court—rumour gives the name as one of the Vice-Presidents of the Board of Punishments. A Peking despatch dated the 28th of January, states that at the first two trials of K'ang before a special tribunal in the Board of Punishments, although very cruel tortures, such as kneeling on heated iron chains, being pricked with red-hot needles, etc., had been administered to make him confess to the formidable list of some twenty-nine robberies with murder in each case, of which he had been accused, K'ang, in spite of his collar-bone, around which a chain had been passed, being partly bare of flesh, and his ankles being in a shattered condition to prevent his trying to escape while en route from Newchwang to Peking, sturdily refused to sign his name to the list. Being a man of magnificent physique, his constitution and determined will were such as to defy all the extra physical pains of the two trials, for without his signature to the charges the Court could not sentence the man, although there was not the slightest doubt that K'ang was really guilty. The investigating judges were, therefore, at their wits' end. It had clearly been demonstrated that cruelty and force had no terrors for their prisoner, and further torture would probably send him to his last account, in which case banishment to a distance of 3,000 li would probably be too light a punishment for the judges. An appeal had therefore to be made to K'ang at the third trial, and the judges changing their tactics became his supplicants. "It was true," they said, "that he (K'ang) had heroically borne without a murmur or a wince the most frightful treatment and most excruciating tortures. He was therefore a hero! No one would dare now to say, after all he had suffered, that K'ang Lao-pa was not the greatest hero of present times. His deeds and exploits all

demonstrated his bravery to the world! There was therefore no necessity to prove any further to the world what a hero he was, and that to confess now without further application of the torture was no disgrace," etc. Seeing signs of relenting on the set features of the prisoner, one of the judges gave orders that a rug be brought for K'ang and a couple of native pillows, stuffed with straw, to lean against during his trial. This evidently had some effect upon the prisoner, and one of the judges said aloud, "K'ang, you are a hero. All under heaven acknowledge this. When the Emperor calls upon the faithful Minister to die, the Minister dies unflinchingly of his own accord to show his loyalty; if the father calls upon the filial son to die, the son in duty bound bends his neck to the stern decree. A man can't live for ever, you know. With your heroic record, what better moment to die, after you have shown your fortitude and heroism to the world?" Without more ado K'ang signed his own death warrant. It should be stated that this trial had lasted three hours, and to keep the prisoner in good humour he had been constantly supplied with hot tea, cakes and pipes of tobacco. But no sooner had he signed his confession than all was changed, and again loaded with heavy chains K'ang was hurried back to the Heavenly Prison, only to expiate his crimes the next morning (25th of December) by the slicing process, or *lingchi*. K'ang sang songs all the way to the execution ground, and kept it up even when the executioner's knife had cut into him several times. A stab with a dagger in the region of his heart silenced the desperado's voice and the rest of the "slicing" and the final severance of the head from the body were then done in silence although some 10,000 people surrounded the spot.

THE INDIAN FAMINE.

His Excellency the Viceroy of India presided on Thursday afternoon, the 14th of January, at a crowded meeting at the Dalhousie Institute, Calcutta, convened by the Sheriff of Calcutta, with the object of establishing a fund for the relief of the sufferers from the famine. His Excellency was accompanied on the platform by Sir Alexander and Lady Mackenzie, and the Ladies Elizabeth, Christian, and Veronica Bruce. Having regard to the limited capacity of the Institute hall, precautions had to be taken to prevent over-crowding, and, elaborate police arrangements were made to maintain order. Fully an hour before the time appointed for the meeting, crowds of people had gathered in the vicinity of the Institute, and at one time the pressure for admittance to the hall was so great that Sir John Lambert, who was one of the first arrivals, had himself to intervene to prevent an accident. Eventually after order was restored, everything went smoothly, and on His Excellency's arrival, he was received at the entrance by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor Sir John Lambert, and the Sheriff of Calcutta, and conducted to the dais. Proceedings were immediately opened by the Sheriff, who declared the meeting open, and, on the motion of Maharaja Sir Jotendro Mohun Tagore, seconded by Mr. C. H. Moore, His Excellency the Viceroy was asked to take the Chair. The two resolutions dealing with the immediate object of the meeting as well as the vote of thanks to His Excellency for presiding, were carried with acclamation, and an examination of the subscription-list on the table showed that over a lakh of rupees had been subscribed on the spot.

His Excellency, who on rising was received with cheers, spoke as follows—Your Honour, your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen,—We are met this afternoon under circumstances which I believe to be

unprecedented. It is not that meetings have not been held before in Calcutta and elsewhere arising out of the distress of the people, and for the purpose of calling to their aid the generosity of the charitable. If for twenty years the necessity has not arisen, I venture to say that none of those who have been responsible for the Government, none of those who, officially or unofficially, have studied the condition of the people of India, can have failed to recognise that in any single year, the spectre of famine might present itself at our doors. The interest with which we watch the labours of the able gentleman at the head of our Meteorological Department, testifies to an ever-present anxiety. Nor is this occasion unprecedented because of the criticism which the Government has encountered, or even of the nature of that criticism. Governments are made to be criticised, and, for my part, I have always thought that fair and honourable criticism affords valuable assistance which no Government can despise. (Applause.) But where I think this occasion has no parallel, is the wide field over which our operations must extend. The meetings in Madras in 1877, in Calcutta in 1874, had to deal with distress which could not well have been more acute in the important areas affected; but never before has the appeal for help come from so many directions. I hold in my hand telegrams from all the Heads of Local Governments, expressing their cordial approval of this movement, and promising their ready co-operation. This movement may, therefore, well be termed a national one, and I appeal to all that, with that fact before us, minor controversies should cease. Whatever differences of opinion may have existed, henceforth let us have no gaps in our ranks, but face the future as one man. (Applause.) I am emboldened to say this to you because I know I am repeating the desire of one, whose merest wish will have more weight than any words of mine. I am permitted to announce that Her Majesty the Queen-Emress has been graciously pleased to become Patron of this fund. (Applause.) It is her wish that its operations should be conducted on broad and imperial lines, and that fact unites us with our fellow-subjects in all parts of the world, in one undivided and indissoluble phalanx. (Applause.) It may be, nay it must be, to all of us a matter of regret that the sufferings of her Indian subjects must mingle with the memories of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's glorious reign; but if that is now inevitable, at all events there can be nothing more entirely consonant with the spirit of her reign, than the charity and good-will, imperial, all-embracing, which is the lesson our Sovereign has taught us. (Applause.) I am reluctant to detain you at any length, but I think it incumbent on me to say a few words about the objects of the fund it is proposed to institute, and the means by which they may be attained. I can quite understand that it is not easy for those unacquainted with the system under which the Government works to appreciate the distinction drawn between the obligations lying upon Government, and the objects to which, with the concurrence and co-operation of Government, charitable funds may be devoted. The Government system, and the principles on which it rests, are no new things, discovered by us for this emergency; we inherit in them the labours of generations of statesmen, and the experience of men who have grappled with the foe and have overcome him. They originate, I think, in the fact that it is impossible to predict of any single year that famine will not come, or the magnitude of the disaster when it does come. That means that an adequate organisation must be ready beforehand to cope with it; and obviously no organisation can be continuously ready to cope with an Indian famine, except one for which Government makes itself responsible. The numbers alone make anything else impracticable. We read of 1½ millions of people being on relief works, and we know

that even that number may be doubled or trebled. That means a failure of crops and a distress which is most grievous, but it also means that these millions of people are, by the action of Government, saved from what without it would only too probably have been death by starvation. Moreover, it is necessary not only to provide for large numbers, but to do so in a way that will meet a very rapid and sudden increase. Last week's return of persons relieved, showed an increase in the single district of Allahabad from 40,000 to 98,000. Let any one attempt to realise what is implied in providing the whole machinery of Famine Relief for 60,000 additional people in a week in one single district, and he will admit that we have a right to feel some confidence in a system which possesses such powers of expansion, and to desire to retain its action unimpeded. If, then, Government is to maintain its relief works by which the population, as a whole, can be kept in good condition, its poor-houses for the more destitute poor, its gratuitous relief for the feeble and dependent, I hear it again asked, what is private charity to do? I think, if you will look to the definition of the objects which we have drawn up, you will find that through them all we invoke the exercise of individual effort. It is by the work of individuals, officials and non-officials, of men and women working among those who know and trust them, that we can hope to discover where comforts beyond the subsistence ration become a necessity, where domestic privacy conceals misery and starvation, where we can do something to make up to the orphan for the loss of a father's care, to the honest man of an independence he valued well-nigh as highly as his life. (Applause.) This is a work thoroughly in accord with the best traditions of Indian charity—a charity which has carried us through many a time of peril, and only fails us when under severe pressure the sources on which it ordinarily depends run dry. Indian charity has not now been inactive, and in many cases what we have to do is to supplement and encourage its work. There exist in many centres local Committees which will be the backbone of any organisation that we now create. They have been working in concert with the Local Governments, and their number can, I doubt not, be increased, if need be. I cannot too strongly impress upon you my sense of the importance of laying the full responsibility for the actual administration of charitable funds, on those who are in a position to act with knowledge of the local circumstances. Any attempt at minute control over all India from one centre, will result in lamentable failure. I, therefore, earnestly hope that, in accordance with the scheme of organisation which will be submitted to this meeting, the formation of Provincial Committees will follow closely on the formation of the Central Committee here to-day; and that the principles of action being once laid down the Provincial Committee will be allowed the amplest discretion in the management of their own funds. Those funds will consist, in the first place, of all subscriptions which the donors desire should be exclusively devoted to their own province, and in the second place, of the proportion of the general fund which may be allotted to the province by the Central Committee. The General Fund should consist of the money entrusted to the Central Committee, either by those in India who desire to give help wherever it is most required, or by those in England and elsewhere who cannot from so great a distance determine themselves where the great need may be. I feel certain that this division and definition of duties from the first will promote efficiency and prevent waste. The Central Committee in the collection of subscriptions, and in the determination of their allocation, will have enough to do to tax the energies of the most devoted workers, and a duty which only a body of a representative character, with the fullest sense of its responsibility, can ade-

quately discharge. In the Provincial Committees they will find not rivals, but allies, who will bring to the whole system the elasticity on which its success will mainly depend. I scarcely think, ladies and gentlemen that it is necessary for me to promise the help and co-operation of Government and its officers in every department of this work. My honourable friend, Sir John Woodburn, last week paid a just tribute to the spirit in which local officers (by which I am sure he meant all local officers, native and European) are meeting the call made upon them. We know by only too sad an experience that they do not hesitate to risk health, and strength, and even life itself, and I am confident that their assistance and co-operation will be readily and fully given towards employing to the best advantage, the fund we are about to raise. Those who control public affairs and public money must be content sometimes to appear cold and calculating, for it is part of their duty to ignore their personal feelings. But warm hearts beat under official waistcoats, and I believe few welcome an opportunity like this more than those who habitually wear the chains of official constraint. And what is this opportunity? I can only speak for myself, but I should consider that I had ill used the advantages of the last three years, if I could view unmoved the sufferings of a people whose patient and contented disposition in a lot that has few pleasures and many hardships, has often filled me with admiration. (Applause.) I rejoice to see a wave of sympathy sweeping away all distinctions of class, race, creed or opinion. (Applause.) The cry for sympathy that rings in our ears in this land we know finds a ready response in the busy streets of London, of Glasgow, and in the crowded manufactories of Lancashire, and will, I believe, not be heard without avail in the rural village, the highland glen, or in any of the distant regions to which our countrymen have carried their energy and their patriotism. (Applause.) It is a sympathy which is twice blessed, which blesses him that gives and him that takes—and as such I can safely leave it in your hands. (Loud and continued applause.)

Commenting upon this speech the *Friend of India* says:—

The Viceroy's eloquent and sympathetic speech of Thursday afternoon will be read throughout India with a sense of profound thankfulness, and that for a two-fold reason. Coupled with His Excellency's recent emphatic recognition of the responsibility of the Government for saving of life, the proof it affords that the scales have at last fallen from his eyes amounts to an assurance that the country has been saved from at least one element of grave and imminent danger. Whether the Government should succeed, or whether it should fail, in the great duty it has taken on itself, the fear that existed, only a few days ago, that it would fail through blindness to the magnitude of the emergency is, there is good reason for hoping, a thing of the past. We could only wish that the Viceroy had recognised, or that we felt confident that he would in the near future recognise, the folly of looking to private trade alone to import into India the vast quantities of grain that will have to be imported, if the millions of whom he speaks are really to be saved alive. We are convinced that it is not twice or three times 1½ millions as anticipated by Lord Elgin, but more probably ten times 1½ millions, that will have to be fed by the State, if they are to be saved, and that before many weeks have passed; and we are convinced that, should present policy of abstention from importation be persisted in, it will be possible for these millions to be fed by, or at the expense of, the State, only, if at all, at the cost of a rise in prices which will mean acute distress throughout India among all but the wealthiest classes. Is it possible that His Excellency does not see that, in the absence of equivalent importations of food, every rupee spent

in the form of money relief must tend to raise prices, and that, if millions are to be thus relieved, there is very grave danger that the rise will be heavy, or that he does not understand that even present prices mean starvation for daily growing multitudes?

THE SALE OF OFFICIAL RANK.

It is reported from Peking that last December when the Emperor commanded the Board of Revenue to report upon the recommendation of two Censors to stop altogether the sale of official rank, all the members of that Board were favourable to the idea except H.E. Chang Yin-huan, the Chinese Senior Vice-President. The principal argument adduced by the Censors was that "it was dangerous to entrust the administration of the law to people who were not literary graduates and, therefore, not to be depended upon to expound the rites and proprieties of the ancient sage." To this H.E. Chang retorted that it had already been abundantly proved that there were men of remarkable talents and sterling integrity in the ranks of non-graduates, and, further, that there were just as many dishonest and unworthy officials who possessed literary degrees as amongst those who had no literary rank at all. Being himself a *chinshih* or Metropolitan graduate, H.E. Chang could not be twitted for standing on the side of non-graduates, on the ground of holding no high literary rank himself. An appeal was then made to Prince Kung by the majority to ask his Highness to use his influence with H.E. Chang, and so obtain a unanimous report to the Throne recommending the stopping for ever of the sale of official ranks. They were again non-plussed by his Highness declaring that his views were similar to H.E. Chang, "that in the present need of money by the Government, it was highly inadvisable to close any door of revenue, no matter how small the sum may be. Indeed, instead of closing any avenues of income, it was supremely necessary to devise new methods of revenue," etc. A compromise was at last made by simply stopping the sale of Taotai and prefectural ranks and allowing the sale of others to go on as usual. In order to prevent further comment and obstruction, H.E. Chang finally consented to join his name to the other Vice-Presidents and Presidents of his Board in their report to the Throne. Unless a man possesses a blue button (Taotai or prefect's grade) no matter what may be his abilities (or wealth) he has no chance of holding a responsible post, especially where international intercourse is concerned, the promotions here being more rapid than in other branches of the Public Service. Hence the eagerness of all non-graduates, who are able to pay down from Tls. 10,000 to Tls. 15,000, to purchase the rank of Taotai as the first step to power and trust, and the jealousy of the literary gentlemen at Peking to stop the privilege of purchase, thereby retaining these posts and appointments for their own class, and closing the doors to outsiders. As a matter of fact, amongst the expectant Taotais in the Empire, seven-tenths are non-literary graduates, or, at most, only licentiate—and these only stand in the ratio of one in four—while those of higher literary rank amongst the balance of three-tenths, may be said to have attained their present Taotai's rank by slow promotion from the ranks of the district magistrates of the country. Hence the jealousies with which *Chijens*, *Chinshis* and *Hanlins*, regard those who have so far maintained their ranks and position by ability—or wealth.

THE NEW RAPID.

This latest freak of our treacherous river remains as great an obstruction to the traffic as ever. All cargo has to be transhipped and carried a mile by coolies over the intervening rocks, while all passengers travelling between Chungking and Ichang have equally to undergo the inconvenience and delay of transferring themselves and their belongings to a new boat. This delay in their case amounts to two or three days, but in the case of cargo it not seldom amounts to as many months. The owners of cargo-boats appear not yet able to make arrangements for interchanging their cargoes, and hence the junks have to pass the rapids, which they do emptied of everything movable and reduced to a mere shell, but they have, upon arrival above or below, to take up rank and wait their turn and, as several hundreds are waiting at each end and only four or five junks pass up in a day, the loss of time, which means the pay and feeding of 40 or 50 men to the junkmaster and correspondingly increased freights to the shipper, is really appalling.

APPEARANCE OF THE RAPID.

For the new rapid is not like the ancient orthodox rapids which only demanded ordinary skilful navigation to be passed in comparative safety. The new obstruction is a terrific torrent, in appearance much like the whirlpool rapid below Niagara Falls. The whole volume of the mighty Yangtze, compressed into a channel eighty yards wide, is dammed back and escaping through this narrow channel in a slope of some ten feet fall, rushes down at a tremendous pace in huge foaming breakers. Below, where the river expands again, are hideous whirlpools which are liable to catch up a descending junk and hurl her against the rocks. We ourselves witnessed a big salt-junk, empty of course, thus caught. She struggled over an hour going up in the eddy, descending the rapid only to be caught up again, shipping small seas each time. At length the efforts of sixty men straining at her big oars and yulohs succeeded in extricating her. Towing up, all depends on the security of the bamboo towlines, a large empty junk taking 400 men to haul her through, literally inch by inch. The trackers go along the top of a wall of rock, now about sixty feet above the river level, the junk being underneath and out of their sight. It is against this jagged rock wall that descending junks are liable to be thrown by the current if they escape the whirlpool on their left. On the eve of the Chinese New Year a junk rowed by eighteen men was caught by the eddy on the right, before the descent was completed, and dashed against these rocks. Six lives were saved by the red boats but twelve were lost. Safety lies in descending the rapid in the centre where the compression has arched the water and piled it up high above the level of the eddies on each side; to hit this centre the descending junk has to steer between a gap in the reef over which the water falls before it forms the rapid. The reef was harmless originally, as the main body of the river lay to the south of it; now the new land-slide has pushed up to this reef, and over and through it the whole river now passes.

THE ORIGIN OF THE RAPID

has already been described; it is a huge land-slide on the south shore, about half-a-mile wide and three times as deep, which has become detached from the mountain that bounds the river valley on the south and has slid forward into the water, narrowing the channel by two-thirds. The moving land is composed of irregular blocks of sandstone *debris* embedded in a stiff red loam. The face of the mountain from which this *debris* has become detached forms a vertical cliff some eight hundred feet high. The cause of the

"slide" appears to have been the washing out of the earth beneath this hill of debris by the continuous rains last autumn. Thus undermined, a subsidiary took place, the loosely composed foot-hill broke away from the solid mountain against which it leaned and slid forward into the river bed, forming a point (at a spot where formerly existed the quiet bay known as 龍井灣, (the Dragon's pool), which now runs out to meet an old reef of rocks on the south shore, thus almost completely barring the river. The slide occurred in the night, on the twenty-third day of the eighth moon, but the occupants of the various farms which cover the surface were warned by ominous rumblings and crackings the day before and so had time to clear out: not so the inhabitants of a valley just above, through which flows an affluent of the Yangtze called 小江. Here a navigable river was entirely dammed across, and the navigation now goes no farther than the foot of the landslide about 5 miles in, and over which the stream now descends in a fine waterfall. Sixty people lie buried in the debris. The loss of life in the new rapid itself is estimated by the Yün yang magistrate in charge of the new town which has sprung up there, at over 1,000 in the past three months. Indeed it ought not to be navigated at all until the obstruction is removed. As an inscription now placed a mile above the rapid to warn descending boatmen who may be ignorant of its existence states, it is a "vicious rapid." This inscription, conspicuous in big white characters, runs 離險出新. "A new bad rapid has newly arisen."

REMOVAL OF THE OBSTRUCTION.

In any other country but China immediate steps would have been taken to remove such a dangerous impediment to the navigation, and the latest resources of science would have been called in to help. As it is, the salt guild of Luchow, whose junks have been the greatest sufferers, have gained permission from the Viceroy of the province (Szechuan) to do what they can with manual labour only, and, in consequence, for the past month 1,000 or more labourers have been at work chipping stone and transporting the broken up material. This method is slow and sure and suits the Chinese but, of course, the point will not be appreciably reduced before the spring rise in the water occurs and nothing more can be done until the autumn fall. It is an interesting sight to see the busy anti-hive swarming on the point, the masons in red and the navies in yellow turbans, but it is evident that these can only work on the surface and that, to remove the rock below water level, dynamite must be employed. The deputy in charge of the work sees this but has no authority. At the same time it is surprising to see how much has been done. A triangle, or to speak more accurately, a conic section, measuring roughly 450 x 150 x 20 feet, has been already broken up and carried away and thrown into the bight below the point, thus adding 50 yards to the river's width after it shall have risen fifteen or twenty feet above its present winter level; but, as the river is, no improvement whatever has been effected. Twenty thousand taels is the sum allotted to the work so far, which is being expended at the rate of two hundred taels per diem, there being now in all fifteen hundred men engaged in the work. Meanwhile the loss to the merchants and junkowners of Szechuan is at least two hundred taels per day for demurrage and portage, an estimated increase of one to two per cent in the cost of all goods entering and leaving the province. The Viceroy has certainly forbidden the use of dynamite: whether it is true, as stated, that he fears an explosion at Yün yang will blow up his yamen at Chengtu (Yün-

yang being the fengshui of the capital as the black rock is that of Paoing) or whether it is an excuse not to be driven to "foreign" aid, I leave to those to decide who understand Chinese better than does your correspondent

A. J. L.

Yün yang, Szechuan, 9th February.

CHINA AND THE POSTAL UNION.

Adverting to our remarks in our article of the 19th instant to the effect that "China had joined the Union and is only waiting with laudable caution to see a thorough trial of its organisation before undertaking international work," we now publish a translation of the Circular Note addressed to the Postal Union Countries by the Swiss Federal Council informing them of China's present partial and eventual full adhesion to the Union:—

Berne, 22nd June, 1896.

Monsieur le Ministre,

We have the honour to inform your Excellency that by a note dated the 15th of April last, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of China at Peking has communicated to us that his Government has the intention, while organising an Imperial Postal Service, to admit without farther charge from the 1st of January, 1897, correspondence franked at union rates destined to a certain number of Chinese localities, and to request later on that China shall be admitted into the Universal Postal Union.

We believe that we cannot do better than give hereunder a translation of the Note in question:—

"The Ministers of Foreign Affairs in China have the honour of informing the honourable Swiss Federal Council that an Imperial Decree has just ordered the establishment of a Postal Service, to function primarily at Peking and the ports open to foreign trade, and to be developed by degrees as circumstances permit. Their attention having been drawn to the existence of the Postal Union, its great utility and the admirable manner in which it is administered by the Swiss government, its delegate, and considering that all the Powers with which China has concluded Treaties are member of this Union, and that the adhesion of China to the Union cannot but be to the general advantage, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs beg, accordingly, to notify the honourable Swiss Federal Council of the intention of the Chinese Government to establish a Postal Service, and, later on, to join the Postal Union; but as the Imperial Postal Service is a new creation, and its organisation will require a more or less long period, the date at which China proposes to give her formal adhesion and accept the accompanying duties and responsibilities cannot be fixed until later on, after it is decided that the Service is working properly. Meanwhile, the Tsungli Yamèn, that is, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, wish cognisance to be now taken of China's intention to join the Postal Union, and declare for the information of the honourable Federal Council and the members of the Union, that from the 1st of January, 1897, correspondence coming from countries that are members of the Union will, from the 1st of January, 1897, on its arrival at Peking, Newchwang, Tientsin, Chefoo, Chungking, Ichang, Shasi, Hankow, Kiukiang, Wuhu, Chinkiang, Shanghai, Soochow, Hangchow, Ningpo, Wenchow, Foochow, Amoy, Swatow, Canton, Hoihow (Kiungchow), Pakhoi, Lungchow, and Mêngtze, be received, transmitted, and distributed by the offices of the Imperial Post at these points, free of all supplementary postal charges.

"As additional post offices are established and the Postal Service is developed, notice will from time to time be given for general information. The Imperial Postal Service

is at the outset attached to the Service of the Imperial Maritime Customs, and placed under the direction of the Inspector-General of Customs; its delegate in Europe for all postal questions is the Commissioner of Customs Mr. J. D. Campbell, resident in London, to whom all questions as to details or necessary information should be addressed.

"We have the honour, etc."

We avail ourselves of this occasion, etc.

The President of the Confederation,

(Signed) LACHENEL.

The Chancellor of the Confederation,

(Signed) RINGIER.

To his Excellency,

The Minister of Foreign Affairs.

THE HEROINE OF HAWORTH.

"Would you care to go over to Haworth?" asked a friend we were lately visiting in Yorkshire; "the Brontë Museum is on view just now."

But the distance was thirty miles, the weather was hot, and our time was short; moreover, our Brontë lore was limited to a school-time surreptitious reading of the forbidden *Jane Eyre* and *Villette*, and an almost as early reading of Mrs. Gaskell's *Life of Currer Bell*; so we declined our hostess's proposal.

But now I lay down the recently published memoir, *Charlotte Brontë and her Circle*, feeling that no press of time, or heat of weather, or any other hindrance whatsoever would again prevent my seizing such an opportunity. These hitherto unpublished letters, ably edited by Mr. Shorter, stir a sympathetic interest and heartfelt admiration for the heroine of Haworth for which the actual story in its uneventfulness seems hardly to account. Much of this sympathy and admiration is doubtless due to the writer's perfect unconsciousness of any claim to such a tribute; while her almost morbid consciousness as to her self-ascribed deficiencies is not the least pathetic point in the picture.

Here for instance is her record of her introduction to her literary Titan, Thackeray, "the first of modern masters," "the high-priest of truth," in her estimation: "When Mr. Thackeray was announced, and I looked up at his tall figure and heard his voice, I could only be certain the incident was not a dream because I became miserably destitute of self-possession. Woe to him that thinks of himself in the presence of intellectual greatness! Had I not been obliged to speak, I could have managed well; but it behoved me to answer when addressed, and the effort was torture—I spoke stupidly." Elsewhere she writes: "Though many doors of knowledge are for ever shut to me—though I must grope my way in the dark where such writers as Dickens and Thackeray have only to lift the veil in the temple of truth, and come forth to tell what they have seen—yet with every disadvantage, I mean still, in my own contracted way, to do my best. Imperfect my best will be, and poor, and compared with the works of the true masters—especially of that great modern master whom I reverence with all my strength—it will be trifling, but I trust not affected or counterfeit." Yet by how many was the writer's *Jane Eyre* at first ascribed to this her intellectual idol!

It is deeply interesting to read, from another's point of view, of Miss Brontë's introduction to Thackeray as described in the animated "Reminiscences" of his daughter, Mrs. Ritchie, quoted in this book: the excitement mingled with awe as the whole Thackeray household awaited ("and my father," says Mrs. Ritchie, "rarely waited") the renowned visitor—the entrance of the literary lioness of the day in the form of "a tiny, delicate little lady with fair straight hair and steady eyes, looking somewhat over thirty, and dressed in a little barège, green-flowered dress—and in 'mittens,

silence and seriousness." Her absolute abasement in the presence of the celebrities convened to enjoy her society and do her honour,—Carlyles, Proctors, etc.—is graphically told.

"It was a gloomy and a silent evening. All waited for the brilliant conversation which never came at all. Miss Brontë, seated in a retired spot, murmured a low word now and then to our governess. At last a lady from among the expectant group was driven to utter the commonplace: "Do you like London, Miss Brontë?" "Another silence, and Miss Brontë answers "Yes, and no," very gravely. And no sooner has she departed than the host of the evening, overwhelmed by the constraint of the atmosphere, is seen by his daughter to steal from the house en route for his club; though invited guests, in full evening dress, were even yet arriving.

But Miss Brontë, in spite of the suffering of such an ordeal, seems to have had no desire to accustom herself to distinguished environment. Three years later she writes: "Mr. Thackeray has several times offered to introduce me to some of his great friends" (he was at the time delivering his famous lectures, and "the pet and darling" of duchesses and marchionesses galore) "but I cannot see that this sort of society produces so good an effect upon him as to tempt me to try the same experiment—so I remain obscure." "It was proposed to me," she says elsewhere, "to meet Charles Dickens, Lady Morgan, Mesdames Trollope and others; but I know such introductions would involve a degree of notoriety I was not disposed to incur—so I declined with thanks."

Yet were her conversational powers, when not thus stifled by timidity, quite exceptional. "If not beautiful," we read of her, "she possessed a singular charm of manner, an exhilarating flow of conversation, which carried intelligent men off their feet. Among her offers of marriage (four at least) one came from a gentleman who had met her only once, but this was in her quiet home, where, as she writes in narrating the affair to her special confidante, "as you know I talk with ease, unoppressed by that miserable *mauvaise honte* that constrains me elsewhere."

Nor was the great novelist's opinion of his guest in any way affected by her social diffidence. It is gratifying, in view of her ardent admiration for himself, to read his eloquent estimate of Currer Bell: "She seemed an austere little Joan of Arc marching in upon us and rebuking our easy lives and easy morals. She gave me the impression of being a pure, lofty, high-minded person; a great and holy reverence of right and truth seemed with her always. Who, in reading her books, has not admired the artist's noble English, the burning love of truth, the bravery, simplicity, indignation at wrong, the eager sympathy, pious love, and reverence, the passionate honour, so to speak, of the woman."

Although Miss Brontë's letters bear some marks of the stilted style prevalent in her day, when perhaps among other causes, more leisurely living and the cost of postage gave a studied formality and almost solemnity to such intercourse, yet we think that as a correspondent alone, our heroine would have earned exceptional prestige. Whether touching on matters literary or artistic, describing person or place, remarking on political event or social problem, her letters to her chief correspondent in the outside world, Mr Williams, abound in passages of keen observation, descriptive power, epigrammatic precision. While with her lifelong friends, Miss Nussey and Miss Taylor her correspondence reveals rich reserves of womanly affection and tender sympathy underlying a demeanour usually calm almost to coldness.

Here is a note from Edinburgh: "I found here such a charm of situation and association that the enjoyment experienced in a

few days equalled in degree and excellence all that London yielded during a month's sojourn. Edinburgh compared to London is like a vivid page of history compared to a large dull treatise on political economy. . . . As to Melrose and Abbotsford, the very names possess magic and music." At Ambleside, as a guest of Miss Martineau, she meets Matthew Arnold, "striking and prepossessing in appearance, but displeasing from his apparent foppery. The shade of Dr. Arnold seemed to frown on his young representative; but ere long I found some genuine intellectual aspirations and high intellectual attainments displaced superficial affectations. He betrayed his theological opinions to be very vague and unsettled. How unfortunate for him the early death of his father." She thus comments on her famous sister-novelist: "I have read Miss Austen's *Emma* with interest and the degree of admiration she would have thought sensible and suitable. Anything enthusiastic, energetic, poignant, heartfelt, would be out of place in commending her works. There is a Chinese fidelity, a miniature delicacy in the painting: her business is not half so much with the human heart as with human eyes, mouth, hands, and feet; but what throbs fast and full, though hidden—what the blood rushes through—what is the seat of life, and sentient target of death—this Miss Austen ignores." We have a portrait of Cardinal Wiseman, taken at a meeting of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and sent home to the lonely Yorkshire Rectory, during one of her rare absences from her bereft and aged father: "He is a big portly man with not merely a double but a treble and quadruple chin; he has a very large mouth with oily lips, and looks as if he could relish a good dinner with a bottle of wine after it. He came swimming into the room smiling, simpering and bowing like a fat old lady, and sat down very demure in his chair, looking the picture of a sleek hypocrite. He was dressed in black like a Bishop in plain clothes, but wore scarlet gloves and a brilliant scarlet waistcoat; a bevy of inferior priests surrounded him, many of them very sinister-looking men. The Cardinal spoke in a smooth whining manner, just like a canting Methodist preacher. The audience seemed to look up to him as a God, and a spirit of the hottest zeal pervaded the meeting. All the speeches turned on the necessity to strain every nerve to make converts to popery. Let Protestants look to it!"

These letters to her father, in which she sometimes tells him of the attentions shown her by the great and noble of the London world—the courtesies of the Marquis of Westminster and the Earl of Ellesmere, the breakfast with Samuel Rogers, the visit to the Crystal Palace under escort of Sir David Brewster—"not to boast, but to give you pleasure"—are full of solicitude for his comfort, and messages to "Tabby," the faithful friend and factotum of the modest Haworth ménage. And it seems to us that for all time Charlotte Brontë must hold a high, if not the highest rank in literary records, as illustrating how a womanly devotion to the lowly duties and gentle ministries of domestic life, may consist with the exercise of every gift we may possess for influencing a wider sphere. And certainly she points this moral with the greater force that it was not only with the customary duties and ministries of an English lady's home she had to do. Her graphic records tell of often even menial drudgery, amid pressing poverty, bodily weakness, mental depression, family distress and disgrace, desolating bereavement, well-nigh paralysing social stagnation, before which heart and flesh might as well have failed. Her chief support through all was manifestly the deep confidence in God which breathes through even the saddest of her letters. She writes on the death of her only bro-

ther: "As I looked on his noble face (for nature had favoured him with a fairer exterior than his sisters) I realised the inadequacy of even genius to lead to true greatness, unaided by religion and principle." And again a few months later, one beloved sister dead, the other dying: "I cannot help feeling much depressed at times about dear Anne; I try to leave all in God's hands; to trust in His goodness; but faith and resignation are difficult to practise under some circumstances."

And when the last blow fell, and this cherished companion was taken from her, we find these touching words: "I feel to my deep sorrow, to my humiliation, that I am unable to bear the canker of constant solitude. Even intellect and imagination will not dispense with the ray of domestic cheerfulness, the gentle spur of family discussion; all through the night's memory is sad and relentless. But this is my cup, and I must drink it as others have drunk theirs." And so, to use her own simple words, "she did her best;" and did that best so well and bravely, that Charlotte Brontë's "circle," once limited to that little ever-dwindling home and a few faithful friends, will we are sure continue to extend its limits so long as there are men and women able to appreciate a genius so great that no external barriers could restrain it, united to a character so true that neither sorrow or success could prevail to mar its simple beauty.

ALICE JANE MUIRHEAD.

BOOKS, ETC., RECEIVED.

Takisara, by F. Marion Crawford. 8vo., 347 pp. Macmillan's Colonial Library. Shanghai: Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.

The Sealskin Cloak, by Rolf Boldrewood. 8vo., 505 pp. Macmillan's Colonial Library. Shanghai: Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.

The Unjust Steward, or, The Minister's Debt, by Mrs. Oliphant. 8vo., 311 pp. Macmillan's Colonial Library. Shanghai: Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.

BREWINGS OF OLD DIARY LEAVES.

MIXED IDEAS.

"But in his way lights on the barren plains
Of Sericana, where Chinese drive
With sails and wind their cany waggons
light."

THE careful reader of *Paradise Lost* will observe that the quotation above does not refer to Satan, but to a vulture with which he is compared. Milton's inspiration here was doubtless derived from *Heylin's Cosmography* where it is said, "agreeable unto the observation of modern writers, the country is so plain and level that they have carts and coaches driven with sails, as ordinarily as drawn with horses in these parts." Who these modern writers were, the reader must judge for himself. Certainly a very pleasing idea is left upon the mind of posterity by their "observation." Light, horseless vehicles tacking to and fro—to port and to starboard—over a waterless sea of smooth roads, managed by sailors, who, whatever they may have been, were certainly not "old salts." The picture is so charming, ideal, enchanting, that it were fee-simple vandalism to smash it with a few painful facts of groaning, stridulous wheelbarrows, springless mule carts, garlicky and otherwise insanitary coolies, with frightfully bumpy thoroughfares. In the lines however there really does exist an infinitesimal atom of reality which may be said

to "press the button." Poetic license does the rest.

Ever since the time of the great poet, there have been periodic contributions to the world's stock of information about China, that are equally misleading. Not that the writers of books have intended to deceive the reading public; but wrong impressions have been created, and worst of all, will never be obliterated, in our generation at least.

Turn we now our attention to the sources from which mixed ideas emanate.

The earlier authors of works on China had reasons of their own for making the country appear as promising as possible. These need not be mentioned; but it was perfectly natural, even if not morally right, that these men should draw a little on their imaginations in describing that which they had practically discovered themselves. We can easily imagine how "immense" the description of the Grand Canal, and other objects of interest on the planet Mars would appear, if some enterprising Yankee should contrive a machine that would safely make the round trip to our stellar neighbour, or construct a telescope a mile long. The latter is about as preposterous as a journey to Cathay undertaken by an ordinary mortal three hundred years ago.

Secondly, many writers have generalised too much from particulars. If any one will take the trouble to examine the parallels of latitude which bound China, he will discover at once the probability of a set of different conditions in the various parts of this extensive Empire. The character of the people, their habits, customs, articles of diet, and forms of belief are about as diverse as those of the inhabitants of that part of the continent of America enclosed between these same parallels. Because the Digger Indians relish the taste of worms, the world need not believe that Delmonico puts "caterpillar soup" on his menu; or that the vermicelli of some boarding houses is the relic of a worm-eating pest. And yet because a certain individual saw a species of familiar rodent exposed for sale in a shop at Canton, and heard somewhere of the *canis edibilis*, the people of this planet now believe that Chinese everywhere devour rats, mice, and dogs with the keenest relish. So firmly rooted is this erroneous opinion of the staple diet of this country that *rats* and *Chinese* are as inseparably linked as the Siamese twins. And what a delicious *pot-pourri* the popular conception of bird's-nest soup is!

In the same way others have predicated of Chinese society as a whole what is true of only one class, and the half-starved, desperately poor *sans-culottes* have been made to represent the Chinese people. In their descriptions of the country, the ancient historians of China gave no extended account of the inhabitants, but confined their attention to the Court. Had Macaulay guided the pen in "Spring and Autumn" (春秋) the career of China among the nations might have been entirely different.

Many modern writers describe the coolie class and apply their deductions therefrom to the Court; we submit that this is unfair. The condition, acts, and

feelings of men in the lowest walks of life, who barely eke out a miserable existence, and who hardly ever experience the blessings of a full stomach, must necessarily differ *in toto* from the condition, acts, and feeling of the well-to-do. This is true of every kind of people on the face of the earth, including the Chinese.

The most irritating and even exasperating originator of mixed ideas is the globe-trotter, so-called. In these days of cheap and rapid transit he is as ubiquitous as the mosquito, which he resembles in depth of penetration. He must be watched, for he has done much mischief. It is easy to detect his whereabouts for he challenges notice (also like the mosquito) and even seems desirous of being heard. Many years ago a fledgeeling of this brood set out on his journey with a view to a book, one chapter of which was to describe the Spanish. Soon after crossing the border into that country, he met a red-headed individual whom he tried to engage in conversation. "Whither away, my good man?" he enquired, in as good Spanish as he could command.

The red-headed man shook his head.

"Comment vous portez-vous?", said the indefatigable Smorltork.

Another shake.

"Where are you going this morning, then?"

"Och, and its inquirin' where I'm goin ye're after, ye spalpeen. Well, it's none of yer business, and if I had me shillalah I'd give ye a taste of Dounybrook for yer impudence."

In a chapter of the book which afterwards appeared, the Spanish were described as freckled-faced, red-headed, understanding with difficulty their own language, but speaking with fierce fluency a dialect similar in some respects to the people of Ireland. Books like "Camera Snaps in the Orient," or "Shots on the Wing," resemble the summer fruits and vegetables of the Long Island farmer, which are served up to the summer boarder who may imagine that he is enjoying farm articles of the freshest kind, until a discovery of huge piles of empty tin cans behind the barn, sternly recalls the proximity of the New York canning factories and the cheapness of job lots of last year's output.

Again, there is a class of individuals who have lived a long time in China and travelled considerably on steamers. They have touched at all the principal ports but have rarely left the ship. Taking into consideration the fact that they have not penetrated more than two or three miles into the interior, it is simply astounding what a fund of information they possess, especially in the department of Foreign Missions. When this stop of the organ is turned on there always follows a long, loud burst of gratuitous pessimism as to the agents, agencies, and sphere of operation along this line.

There was once a schoolmaster who asked a pupil entering his class what books he had studied.

"Oh," eagerly replied he, "I have been through geography, history and"—
"Not so fast," said the pedagogue, "that is all very well, but what I wish to know is, how much has been through you."

This enumeration may be said in one sense at least, to exhaust the sources from which wrong impressions of China and the Chinese are divided. But the penumbra which has hung around the brains of those who have ever visited the country, is gradually fading in the clear light of substantial information. China and her really noble people are not the same queer, picturesque, and amusing objects that they were to the uninformed West a few decades ago.

If she has been dull and slow in the past, there is a dignity about her dullness that challenges the admiration of the world. Apart from the blandishments of self-seeking contractors, there was much real honour bestowed upon Li Hung-chang in Europe and America, which shows that the eyes of people at home have been opened by the recent war with Japan as to the real worth and possibilities of this Empire. Whilst that war was a temporary defeat for China, it served as a dispeller of mixed ideas on the part of Europeans as well as Chinese. It was a good medicine all round except for Japan, the tail of whose coat is now so long that the German Minister cannot "shoo" a couple of schoolboys off a carriage drive without offending the national dignity.

FIRE AT THE GOVERNMENT OFFICES IN HONGKONG.

Soon after nine o'clock yesterday morning a telephone message was received at the Central Police Station from Government House stating that the Government Buildings were on fire. On receipt of this rather alarming news the Fire Brigade, under the Hon. F. H. May and Mr. Corcoran, turned out in full force and in an almost incredibly short time they were at the scene of the outbreak, while a large staff of police, under Inspector Baker, also promptly turned out. Happily the fire was not in itself serious, but it was quite serious enough, for if it had gained a few moments' more headway it is most probable that a considerable part of the Offices would have been destroyed. The fire was caused by the upsetting of a pot of tar which was being boiled on the roof of the verandah near the south-east corner of the building. For some time past considerable repairs have been in progress to the entire roof of the structure, and the work had so far been completed that the tiles were being coated with tar, the said tar being boiled in a pot on the top of the roof in close proximity to the workmen. We do not know whether the head officials were ignorant of this highly dangerous procedure, or whether they acquiesced in it in order to facilitate the progress of the work by saving the Chinese coolies the trouble of taking the boiling liquid from the ground to the roof, but be that as it may, it is to be hoped the practice will be at once stopped. As soon as the pot overturned, the tar caught fire and ran under the tiled roof and instantly set the rafters ablaze. With as much haste as possible two messengers and two coolies got out the fire hose from the despatch box which is always kept in the building, and with the assistance of two or three overseers in the Public Works Department, they played a plentiful supply of water upon the burning material. Volumes of smoke issued from the roof and attracted the attention of Sergeant Collinson, who was on duty at Government House, and he immediately telephoned to the Central Police Station.

Soon after the outbreak, the Hon. F. A. Cooper, Mr. H. P. Tooker, Overseers Coyle and Pearson, and Quartermaster-Sergeant Watling were on the spot and

they all rendered excellent service in preventing the spread of the flames, so much so that by the time the Fire Brigade arrived there was practically no serious danger to be apprehended. One man, Inspector Fisher, of the Sanitary Department, had a narrow escape of very bad injuries. He saw liquid falling from the roof, and imagining it was water rushed forward in order to save a number of papers which were in the verandah. This liquid was molten lead from the top of the verandah, but fortunately Fisher perceived its real nature just in time. About nine rafters and other woodwork in the roof were charred before the fire was finally extinguished, and it is stated that it will cost \$200 to make good the damage. Immediately under this part of the roof is the Colonial Secretary's correspondence office, and owing to the large quantity of wood in the roof and verandahs, and the heavy stock of paper in the office this place, at any rate, must have been utterly destroyed if the fire had not been so promptly checked. A large number of business gentlemen, who were at the time proceeding to their offices, witnessed the work of the firemen.—*Hongkong Daily Press*, 16th Feb.

CYCLING IN ENGLAND.

Botany and the bicycle are subjects not entirely without connection although at first sight it would appear that such is not the case. In a most interesting lecture given the other day by Mr. Sowerby, Secretary of the Royal Botanic Society, it was clearly stated that the boom in cycling threatens the extinction of plants from which rubber is cultivated. It appears that the demand for rubber since cycling became the leading pastime of people, has been so enormous that a difficulty has arisen in meeting the demand and in order to gain fortunes rapidly, cultivators of indiarubber plants have been doing all in their power to provide the necessary raw material. Plants are recklessly cut down and the last drop of the precious fluid squeezed out of them.

We have been so accustomed to the anti-cycling tirades of that energetically abusive lady Mrs. Lynn Linton, that I am absolutely astonished to find her saying a good thing for the pastime. In a recent article from her pen she announces herself willing to believe that cycling in the country is not by any means the wicked and unladylike pastime she considers it when followed in our cities. "In the country," she says, "the cycle is a boon and a blessing to both men and women. To them cometh the 'bike' with a power of usefulness and a power of enjoyment that justifies its existence," and so on, and so on. It is indeed pleasant to read such wise things from one who was formerly so radically opposed to cycling, as a suitable pastime for ladies. I hope Mrs. Lynn Linton when next in the country will experiment practically, and I warrant she will then be convinced that the cycle is a boon and a blessing everywhere—both in town and country.

Within the bosom of almost every road-mender in England, a kindly feeling towards cyclists has been carefully inspired and nurtured. This is an excellent state of affairs, for the road-menders have it in their power to make things unpleasant for the brethren of the wheel if they so choose. Happily they are at peace with all cyclists. And in this wise. In many districts—especially including such popular cycling roads as the Ripley Road—the riders, clubmen and otherwise, subscribe every year to a fund for providing the weary road-mender with a first class-evening entertainment, which includes a meal

consisting of those dishes nearest to the heart of men who toil, with sufficient lubrication thereof, not forgetting a bit of good weed wherewith to give a fragrance to the dining room when the viands have disappeared. So well have these little entertainments been organised that we can boast of having almost every road-mender's good wishes, and the manner in which they leave a nice smooth little strip on each side of the road when the smashing-up operations begin, is enough to endear them to the heart of every wheelman.

A road race over a course of 165 miles, finishing at Melbourne, has been run off. This is one of the first long-distance road races attempted in Australia, and that it produced good racing must be the case when we hear that both the 50 and 100 miles Australian road records fell in the race. The first three riders were all on Dunlop tires.

London, 8th January.

What bright times we are having, to be sure! For a whole week, we in the London district have scarcely had a glimpse of the sun. To-day promises well, but King Fog and Jupiter Pluvius have had a rare innings and it is quite time they were put out.

The following paragraph is a fair specimen of the sort of practical knowledge which is generally displayed by those Society journal writers who have been appointed to "do" cycling notes. In describing a folding bicycle the writer says: "So far from detracting in any way from the safety of the bicycle, these bolted hinges add materially to its agility!" A bicycle with the advantage of possessing "agility" would be a remarkable specimen of the frame-maker's ingenuity!

I have frequently drawn attention to the bad construction of cheap cycle tires and in the wired-on variety, it is often noticed that the wire is apt to rust and rot the material in a very short time to the disgust of its owner. Of course, it is obvious that the wire has not been properly treated and, little as this would cost, the makers of low-priced goods will not go to the expense—wretched policy indeed. There are tires, however, most carefully constructed in every detail with the result that the wires never rust—thanks to the most careful treatment they receive, before being inserted in the cover. Here again, we are reminded of the well-known dictum—the best is the cheapest in the long run.

The uses of the bike are many and varied, and here is an instance which should take a lot to beat. On Monday afternoon, there passed down through Drury Lane a man evidently from Covent Garden, riding a bicycle and carrying a large basket of celery, oranges, apples, and the like. And what, do you suppose, was his method of carrying this load? The basket and its contents he had balanced upon his head and that, too, without the least difficulty. I should like to have seen his method of mounting—but it is likely he had some one to assist him at the start. The sight of this young man negotiating the traffic of the Strand or Wellington Street, must have been worth seeing!

The Recorder of Dublin will surely find himself in hot water if he is not careful. Local cyclists have been rendered most indignant, and little wonder, by his extraordinary decision last week in a case, which, to every person of common sense appeared one in which substantial damages should

have been awarded a cyclist, who had been run down by a heavy vehicle. Even the policeman who saw the occurrence declared that the accident was entirely the fault of the driver of the vehicle, which was not on its proper side at the time. But no, the Recorder, who makes no secret of the fact that he hates cyclists, added another case to his long list of injustices to wheelmen. Dublin cyclists are taking up the matter with great energy, and are subscribing to a fund to meet the costs of an appeal, which will probably result in the Recorder's decision being reversed, as it most certainly ought to be.

Henry Osborne was a name well to the fore in the days when Cortis flourished, and as a champion, he figured if not quite so conspicuously as his rival, at any rate to a degree which has rendered his name almost as well-known to those who took any interest in the pastime so many years ago. It is my regretful task to have to chronicle poor Osborne's death, by his own hand, after a severe spell of adversity. He could find no employment—he was an engineering draughtsman for two years past, and got into a depressed state of mind which led him to commit the rash act. Scores of men who knew him intimately in the old days, are astounded to learn that he was in such reduced circumstances—for Osborne did not publish his poverty.

One or two well-known clubs have become rather displeased, because the National Cyclists' Union does not carry out its programme in the manner which might gain the approval of the gentlemen on the Committee of the said clubs. Now a terrific threat has been hurled forth that "unless, etc., etc.," the displeased clubs will sever their connection with the governing body. Whether the N. C. U. will, in consequence dissolve itself on the spot, or live on and content itself with ignoring the seceders, remains to be seen. I think the latter is the most likely to happen.

Taking advantage, no doubt, of the present enormous demand the employees of a well-known company's Coventry works have gone out on strike. They demand higher wages, as they probably have been filled with the idea that they too may as well be making a good bill out of the Company as the shareholders have been doing. It is not at all improbable that these employees will find that they have made a mistake in falling out with the management. Meanwhile it is not likely that the company will suffer, as a very large stock of tires are ready for delivery.

London, 15th January.

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE REV. TIMOTHY RICHARD.

We make the following extracts from an interview with the Rev. Timothy Richard, reported in the *Christian Commonwealth* :—

THE POPULATION OF CHINA.

"At what figure do the best authorities estimate the population of the Chinese Empire?"

"One extreme authority estimates the population as considerably over 400 millions. Another extreme authority estimates it below 300 millions; but the most moderate say 380 millions."

"What is the rate of increase?"

"Not having reliable statistics, we can only estimate again. The best authorities say the population of China is the same as it was fifty years ago. In other words, that the Chinese civilisation has reached the limit of its capacity to support its people; which, as compared with the rate of increase in India, means that the awful number of three millions perish annually

for lack of knowledge of how to develop their vast resources. The low level of living among the poor in North-China, too, is appalling."

"You would say that education is

WHAT THE CHINESE MOST NEED now?"

"Yes, if you bear in mind that there are three other wheels which must also be put in, otherwise China's chariot cannot move on."

"And what are they?"

"China must devise means for the material support of her people, and not let them perish by the million, as now. China must reconstruct her system of government so as to allow far greater freedom of individual action. In a word, her political and social institutions need to be overhauled altogether. The Chinese must also be in harmony with the will of God—seeking the good of their fellow-men, instead of only caring for themselves and endeavouring to drive all foreigners out of their country as if they were fiends and not brethren of the same Father in heaven."

"What has been the

EFFECT OF THE RIOTS AND MASSACRES IN CHINA?

"The first effect was to stop missionary work in the province of Szechuan. The next effect was the rousing of Christian nations to their duty of protecting their subjects, especially those whose sole end was philanthropic. Another effect was the presentation of a memorial to the Chinese Government by the Protestant missionaries explaining what they were actually doing, and challenging the Government to a thorough examination of their work, being persuaded that the evil reports circulated about Christians would be found to be calumnies of the worst kind, and that, instead of deserving to be driven away as the enemies of China, they would be welcomed as her best friends. Some of the leading men in the Empire are beginning to realise this now, and thus the evil is turning out to be for our good. As a matter of fact during the last six years, notwithstanding the persecution, the communicants have doubled in China, and the effect in Fukien province, where the massacres took place, is that 20,000 Chinese have come forward as fresh enquirers, asking for baptism during the last year."

"Where is the greatest opposition to Christian missions in China?"

"It is in Hunan, a province where no missionaries are yet allowed to reside. Consequently the inhabitants only learn of missionaries from the report of evil-minded men and not from what they themselves have seen."

THE RELIGIONS OF CHINA.

"What do you think of the non-Christian religions of China?"

"They have done the grandest work on earth outside of Christendom. Filial piety is a noble feature of Confucianism. It also dwells on the importance of Benevolence, Righteousness, Religion, Knowledge, and Integrity. The teaching of Buddhism about the superiority of moral and spiritual truths over materialism is very fine. And the teaching of Taoism about the forces of nature was an effort in the right direction so far as it went. But now the three seem to be exhausted. They have no word individually or collectively to say how China can meet modern problems satisfactorily. Hence many are beginning to feel that the hope of China is bound up in some way with the prosperity of the Christian religion."

"What has been the effect on the Chinese of the Japanese victory?"

"It was a stunning blow. The older Chinamen do not understand it. They think that the fault lay in Li Hung-chang and those whom he employed. Their corruption is mainly dwelt on—not the incompetence of the Chinese civilisation to meet all emer-

gencies. But the younger men now suspect that there are many things in Christendom which the Chinese can learn with advantage. The opportunity of the Christian Church now lies in guiding the minds of young China. If these are guided aright, then Christendom may virtually be doubled in extent in a generation, and the Chinese factor in the future progress of the human race will then not be a small one."

"What do you think of

RUSSIA'S LATEST MOVE?

"I refer to the alleged treaty between the two countries. Do you think the treaty is an accomplished fact? What will be its effect?"

"There cannot be any doubt that there is an understanding between China and Russia of a nature that places China to a very large extent in the hands of Russia. The first great gain of Russia is its political predominance in the Pacific; then commercial advantages will follow; and, last of all, although religiously Russia has done nothing in China so far, the line of action followed in Japan, in Asia Minor, and in her European dominions is bound to follow in China so far as circumstances will permit. If the Greek Church be the best form of Christianity, then Protestant Missions may rest on their oars; but, if the Greek has much to learn from Protestants, it behoves us to be up and doing, and unite our political, commercial, and religious forces before the Greek Church shall have any power to check Christian light, Christian freedom, and Christian charity."

"When do you intend to return to China?"

"Early in 1897, if possible."

MRS. CAREW'S SOMERSET HOME.

The *Wellington Weekly News* in a recent issue had the following reference to the Carew case:—

During the week the excitement in Somerset and Cornwall has been intensified by the receipt of fresh advices respecting the alleged poisoning of Mr. Carew, of Cornwall, by his wife, formerly Miss Edith May Porch, of Somerset. The accused lady was born in Glastonbury, Somerset, some thirty years ago, and her father, Mr. J.A. Porch, is now the Mayor of that place. Mrs. Carew was well known throughout the country, and whilst at home was received by the best society. Under these circumstances, the greatest sympathy is manifested toward the parents, who were prostrated by the receipt of the startling news, whilst fresh advices from Japan are awaited with anxiety. Mrs. Carew was in England as recently as two years since, when she came home from Yokohama to see her mother and father. The event was an auspicious one, and her entry into the old-fashioned town of Glastonbury was one of triumph. Being known among rich and poor, her popularity had not suffered, despite her long absence from her birthplace. Upon her arrival at the railway station she met with a most enthusiastic reception, and a long procession was formed to escort her to her own home. The town band headed the pageant, and the streets were resplendent with flags. At various points, arches were erected, the cost being borne by the inhabitants. Mrs. Carew stayed at her parents' home at Edgerley for some months, during which time she took advantage of the opportunity to renew her acquaintance with her friends and those who knew her. The enquiries that are being made in this country have not, so far as can be ascertained, tended to produce any evidence likely to be of service during the trial of Mrs. Carew. All her friends believed her to be happy with her husband, and they express the opinion that she is innocent of the terrible charge that she has to meet. In Yokohama she was received into the best society, whilst she has gained a fair reputation as

an amateur actress. Though the appointment of Mr. Carew as Manager of the Yokohama United Club was not very lucrative, his wife had private means, which permitted them to take advantage of the pleasures afforded by association with the highest and most influential people of the city. Mrs. Carew's private income is £400 a year, and it has just been ascertained that Mr. Porch, her father, has annually sent her a cheque for £100. It is a fact of some note, that the charge of murder was not preferred against Mrs. Carew until five days after the inquest on her husband. The decision of the Jury was to the effect that death was due to arsenical poisoning, no evidence being produced to show by whom it was administered. The arrest and subsequent charge against her therefore caused much comment. Regret is expressed in this country at the action of Mr. Walford, one of Mrs. Carew's counsel, who has refused to further act for the accused on account of her action in picking up a letter that was on the solicitors' bench, and which she hid in her sleeve. The case for the defence has not yet been heard, but it will be argued on behalf of the accused lady that Mr. Carew was in the habit of taking large quantities of arsenic, and on one occasion nearly killed himself. The insinuation that she wished to marry a Mr. Dickinson, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, is of course repudiated. Representatives of the deceased, as well as the accused are making searching investigations in this country, but with what success cannot of course be stated.

THE KURUMAYA.

The *Fuzuko Gaho* has an article on the life of a jinrichsha man. It commences with a few remarks upon poverty, which it states will even compel a man to do the work of a horse or ox in order to provide sustenance for himself and family. It then goes on to say that the jinrichsha or man power cart was invented by one Idzumi Yosuki about 1870 and was at that time first brought into practical use. At first only two or three vehicles were made, and a stand was erected for them a little to the south of the Nihonbashi, Tokio, with a sign hung out to attract customers. At first business was dull, but by degrees the vehicles came into favour, and are now to be found not only throughout Japan but the whole of the East. In course of an investigation recently made by the authorities, it transpired that no less than 41,430 of these vehicles were in daily use in Tokio alone. When the jinrichsha man first started to ply for hire his pay was comparatively good in the capital, but nowadays the increased cost of the necessities of life together with the competition of trams, omnibuses, etc., make his living a very precarious one. The article goes on to state that there is one class owning their own vehicles and another hiring them at the average rate of 10 *sen* per diem. Each owner of a public jinrichsha has to pay one *yen* per annum for the ordinary one-man vehicle, and double that amount for a *kuruma* built for two. This tax is collected semi-annually. The *kurumaye* has his own trade guild and a copious *patois* of his own. For example, *dote* means 10 *sen*; *kiwa* 9 *sen*; *bando*, 8 *sen*; *seinan*, 7 *sen*; *ronji*, 6 *sen*; *genko*, 5 *sen*; *dari*, 4 *sen*; *yumi*, 3 *sen*, etc. The jinrichsha man, known colloquially in Japan as *shafu*, (from *sha*, a carriage, *fu*, man) is divided into two classes; the *kakaye no shafu* and the *tsuji machi shafu*. The first named is a man employed by private individuals, usually by the month, for which he is paid from 5 to 8 *yen* and supplied with food as well as being provided with a vehicle. The other class are the men who ply for hire in the streets, and who stand most of the day idle waiting for their fares. When a

customer approaches a jinricksha stand, the men decide who is to take him in accordance with rules laid down by their guild. The most common is by casting lots, or by the game known as *janken*, which consists of thrusting out two fingers, opening the hand or closing the fist, a game well known to most foreigners in Japan. The two fingers represent *hasami* (scissors); the clenched fist, *ishi* (a stone); and the open hand, *kami*, a sheet of paper. Supposing one player presents the stone and the other the scissors, the stone wins as the scissors cannot cut it. On the other hand the scissors can cut and therefore beat the paper, and the paper can wrap up and therefore beat the stone. The winner of course takes the fare. The writer continues his article by stating that a jinricksha-man may earn anything from 50 *sen* to 1 *yen* per day, that is if employed all day, but that as things go, it is no uncommon thing for a man to make as little as 10 *sen* per day. It will thus be seen that they are always miserably poor and it is by no means uncommon to find their wives and families doing other work, such as making match-boxes, etc., in order to eke out some sort of an existence. This being the case it is not surprising that they should worry and bother foot passengers, especially foreigners. Although they are standing about idly for a good part of the day, their lot can scarcely be cast in the most pleasant of places, and the only pity is that more dignified and profitable employment cannot be found for such a vast number of able-bodied men.—*Japan Daily Advertiser*.

Law Reports.

H.B.M.'s POLICE COURT.

Shanghai, 19th February.

Before H. F. BRADY, Esq.,
Police Magistrate.

R. v. WATTS.

James Watts, alias James Johnston, belonging to the British ship *Alice A. Leigh*, was charged with being drunk and incapable in the Broadway on the previous day, and also with being absent from his ship without leave since the 17th inst. Accused admitted the charge and pleaded drunkenness.

Captain John Alexander Rookes, the master of the *Alice A. Leigh*, identified the prisoner as James Watts, who left the vessel on the 17th, and for whose arrest a warrant had been issued.

His Worship ordered the accused to forfeit six days' wages, to undergo one week's imprisonment, and to pay the Court expenses and also the expenses of being put on board his ship.

22nd February.

R. v. MIAH SINGH.

Miah Singh, a Sikh watchman, was charged with being drunk and disorderly in Fearon Road on Saturday.

Sikh police sergeant No. 59 said that at 3 p.m. on Saturday, when walking along in plain clothes, he saw the accused drunk in Fearon Road in company with another Sikh, who was also somewhat drunk. As the witness approached the prisoner spoke to the other man, telling him to catch hold of witness. Accused then did so, with the intention of fighting him apparently. Witness reported the matter at the police station and was instructed to arrest accused. He went with a native constable, and found the prisoner making trouble with a Sikh watchman at a flat in the new Miller Road. Witness arrested the accused, who struck him on the way to the station.

Detective George Wood said he saw the accused when brought into the charge-room at the police station. He was drunk, incapable, and very violent.

Prisoner asked to have the case remanded as he wished to obtain assistance.

Inspector Ramsay said the accused had been before the Court on two previous occasions and had been frequently locked up and released.

His Worship refused to adjourn the case, but imposed a fine of \$4, or seven days.

R. v. FINLAYSON AND ROTHWELL.

Sam Finlayson A. B., and West B. Rothwell, cook, belonging to the British ship *Alice A. Leigh* were charged with being absent from their ship without leave, Finlayson since the 11th inst. and Rothwell since the 15th inst. Both the accused admitted the charge.

Captain Rookes, the master of the ship, said he expected to be clearing about Thursday.

Mr. Eveleigh, the Superintendent of the Sailors' Home, informed his Worship that Finlayson, after deserting, signed on to the American ship *Lucon*, and witness advanced him \$20 on his note.

Finlayson admitted this but added that he wanted to get away from the cold weather.

His Worship ordered Rothwell to forfeit ten days' wages, Finlayson 14 days' wages, and to refund the \$20. They were also ordered to go to prison for seven days, or to be put on board in the event of the ship leaving earlier, and to pay all expenses.

THE POWER THAT PULLS DOWN.

I want to present a single idea in the fewest and clearest words at my command. Here goes for a try at it. From the time you are first able to stand on your feet, up to the time you can stand no longer, there is always a power pulling you backward and downward. You resist, and it persists. It wins partial victories over you every day, and finally it lays you by the heels. Now, what is the name of that power? Don't be too quick with your answer. It is the over-confident cricketer who gets bowled out. Perhaps the reading of these letters may help you.

"In the spring of 1891," says a woman, "my health, previously good began to fail. I am naturally as energetic as most persons and enjoy being up and doing, but now for some reason I felt low, weak, and tired. I had no relish for food of any kind, and what I ate gave me pain at the chest and a feeling of tightness and oppression around the waist, with shortness of breath.

"After a time the pain went to my shoulders and all over me. The distress after eating was so great that I hesitated before swallowing a mouthful, well knowing what the result would be. I took many medicines, but none of them gave me any ease. As time went on I became weaker and weaker, often leaving my household work for a bit so as to lie down on the couch and rest. And as this debility increased upon me my spells of work got shorter and my spells of rest longer.

"Sometimes feeling a trifle better and then again worse, this was practically my condition month after month. I saw a doctor, but his medicines did me little or no good. He said I was suffering from weakness, and would have to get my strength back gradually. The autumn and winter of 1891-2 slowly passed and I was about the same, only more thin and feeble. I had almost given up hope of getting really well again.

"In April (1892) I was in our shop one day and heard a customer speak about Mother Seigel's Curative Syrup, and what remarkable cures of different ailments it had done in the district. 'It may be the right thing for me,' I said, and sent for it that very day. After taking one bottle I could eat better, without any distress or pain to come after it. With the additional food I gained strength, and one week after another, while keeping on with Mother Seigel's Syrup, I found myself able to do more work and needing less rest between times. I took only the 'Seigel's'; no other medicine. I could stand and walk once more without thinking about it, and was soon in as good health and spirits as ever. You are free to print my letter if you desire. (Signed) Mrs. Emma Cottingham, wife of G. W. Cottingham, Grocer and Ironmonger, Scotter, Lincoln, April 29th, 1895."

"For over four years," say another, "I suffered from constant weakness, my natural strength was gone, and nothing I did or took seemed to bring it back. My food—and I ate but little, having no appetite—did not go to the spot, as we say. I was none the better or stronger for eating it. Indeed I was the worse; for it caused me great pain and distress in the stomach, chest, sides, and back. I was working in the mill and never quite gave up my employment; but I did my work in the face of pain and weakness. Finally, I was cured by Mother Seigel's Syrup. I heard of it by means of a little book. The Syrup stopped the pain after eating, and soon I was another and a brighter woman. My strength came back, and I can walk, stand, and work with ease. (Signed) Mrs. Elizabeth Jackson, Silk Street Glossop, October 10th 1895."

Now what was the power that pulled these women down? "Weakness," you say and they say "weakness." But what is weakness? Is it a disease? No, old age always brings it, and it is always one of the results of disease. Strength, the opposite of weakness, is created only by digested food. Nothing else under the sun will produce it. Lose the ability to digest your food and soon your legs tremble beneath you, your fingers lose their grip, your head its steadiness, and your mind its clearness and courage. The word "weakness" comes from a Saxon Word meaning to yield, to fail, to give way. By its wondrous virtue in correcting the machinery of digestion and enabling the system to get "the good" of its daily food—by this, I say, Mother Seigel's Syrup, used in time, overcomes weakness and restores strength.

But, mark you! there is a mystery in this simple explanation, so deep that we must reserve the discussion of it for another occasion.

(1) 12, 19 and 26fe 394

Miscellaneous Intelligence.

PASSENGERS.

DEPARTED.

Per str. *Ravenna*, for London—Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Hayward, Master Hayward and infant, Mr. and Mrs. M. Hardmann and 2 infants, Misses Annie Pearce, Anderson, A. Cooper, D. Cameron, and D. E. Rendall, Mrs. E. J. Cooper and infant, Mrs. Cameron, Masters G. Rendall, W. and L. King, Messrs. W. J. Clarke, and E. D. Baines.

Per str. *Melbourne*, for Yokohama—Mr. L. Bellingardi, For Kobe—Messrs. R. Mantain, and E. Minning.

Per str. *Empress of India*, for Nagasaki—Messrs. W. P. Ampeoff, and W. F. Grigorieff. For Kobe—Mr. A. P. Woodward. For Yokohama—Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Bayne, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Fiedler, and Mr. Paul M. Wenner. For Tacoma—Mr. John Dodd. For Toronto—Miss Isabella Ross. For Milwaukee—Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Irish and infant. For London—Mr. and Mrs. Wigham and infant, Misses L. Bryer, and H. R. Rodd.

Per str. *Kobe Maru*, for Nagasaki—Mrs. Lessner, Messrs. A. Davie, A. Dussand, and T. Vethjima. For Yokohama—Mrs. (2) Zin, Dr. H. M. Dare, R. Boucher, Messrs. A. G. L. Maggi, A. Adams, and Zin.

Per str. *Kiangsoo*, for Hankow—Miss Campbell, Messrs. E. Kirchberg, Parloff, and C. Muller.

Per str. *Sendai Maru*, for Jinsen—Mrs. Ho, Mr. and Mrs. Kum.

Per str. *Lyemooon*, for Hongkong—Mr. G. McBain.

Per str. *Empress of Japan*, for Hongkong—Mrs. Nabekura, and Mr. F. Aizawa.

Per str. *Poyang*, for Hankow—Mrs. Hoffmann, infant and nurse, Mrs. and Miss Larisa, and Mr. A. Ruschel.

Per str. *Poochi*, for Wenchow—Mr. A. Linton.

Per str. *Singan*, for Chfoo—Mr. E. J. Cooper, and Rev. W. Cooper.

Per str. *Kiangkwan*, for Wuhu—Rev. Le Lacheur.

Per str. *Haashin*, for Foochow—Rev. W. C. White.

Per str. *Hsinfung*, for Chefoo—Mr. and Mrs. Chalfant and 2 children.

Per str. *Kiangyia*, for Tungchow—Revs. Speranza, and Geslin. For Chinkiang—Mr. and Mrs. Orr-Ewing.

Per str. *Pekin*, for Ningpo—Misses Barnes, and Vaughan.

ARRIVED.

Per str. *Kaisar-i-Hind*, from London—Capt. Smale, Messrs. J. Rust, D. Macf lane, H. Thomas, G. Hancock, W. Hearley, F. Hunter, J. Partington P. McCann. Maxw-ll, and Teo Wong. From Brindisi—Mr and Mrs. J. Jones, Messrs. Dinklags, and Tears. From Bombay—Messrs. R. W. Playfair, Eadlr, R. Johnston, and W. H. Marks. From Singapore—Messrs. W. E. Roberts, and P. J. W. Wright. From Hongkong—Messrs. Ross, and S. Reynell and servant; 4 Chinese. For Kobe—Mr. R. H. Wright. For Yokohama—Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Kirks, and Mr. Greenalgs.

Per str. *Melbourne*, from Marseilles—Mr. L. de Gieter. From Colombo—Mr. E. W. Ellis. From Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. Waylen, Mr. Pollock. From Hongkong—Mrs. and Miss Gorham, Messrs. A. P. MacEwen, and Joinlight.

Per str. *Empress of Japan*, from Vancouver—Dr. D. Nye, Rev. W. White, Messrs. H. Ainsley, D. Lelecheur, G. W. Noel, de Rijki, and W. Oelbermann. For Hongkong—Misses (2) Mathiesen, Prof. E. Sharp, Messrs. P. Hohnopeyer, E. Mathiesen, and K. Matsumoto.

Per str. *Yokohama Maru*, from Japan—Miss Mordount, Mrs. Futatsubashi, Mrs. C. Williang, Messrs. S. Fujinaga, Paw Wing Sung, Y. Nishibayashi, H. Sakurai, Asukai, Ching Pa Shung, and Y. Hasegawa.

Per str. *Oceanien*, from Yokohama—Messrs. M. Marshall, Finch, Yung Chen, Yee Cheong, Yu Tai-lieng, and Ong Ping-lang. From Kobe—Mrs. Goldberg.

Per str. *Empress of India*, from Hongkong—General, Mrs. and Misses (2) Washburn, Misses Denny, and Serena, Capt. R. Campbell, Messrs. F. Fanshaw, J. Campbell Thompson, W. Whiley, J. P. Roseir, P. C. Hansson, and J. E. Bliss. For Kobe—Miss E. Divers. For Yokohama—Misses Scidmore, and Hunter, Messrs. J. C. and A. W. Swanston. For Vancouver—Miss Campbell, Messrs. J. P. Cochran, and W. J. Morse.

Per str. *Wuchan*, from Chefoo—Mr. and Mrs. Lay and 2 children, and Mr. McMillan.

Per str. *Pekin*, from Ningpo—Mr. and Mrs. Greaves and infant, and Miss Gittens.

Per str. *Tatung*, from Hankow—Mr. Warneken.

Per str. *Kiangyü*, from Hankow—Dr. and Mrs. Merrins, Messrs. Ono, and Hotto.

Per str. *W. Cores de Vries*, from Hankow—Mrs. Harr s.

Per str. *Pekin*, from Ningpo—Misses Rodd and Bryer.

Per str. *Ngankin*, from Hankow—General Grodekoff, Messrs. H. Smith, and Wong-ke-zur.

Per str. *Tungchow*, from Chefoo—Mrs. Irens and son.

Per str. *Fooksann*, from Foochow—Miss Truro, and Mr. Wilkinson.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

Day of Month.	Barometer.		WIND.	Force.	Therm.		Dry bulb.	Wet bulb.	Max.	Min.	Initials.
	9 A.M.	Atmos. Therm.									
Feb.											
30	30.50	32.0	N.	2	31.5	froz	38.0	29.0	C.		
31	30.30	35.0	N.	2	35.0	34.0	39.0	30.0	C.		
22	30.23	38.0	N.W.	3	37.5	36.0	41.0	34.0	C.		
23	30.17	39.0	N.	3	38.5	37.5	43.0	38.0	B.		
24	30.10	43.0	S.	2	42.5	41.0	47.0	38.0	O.		
25	30.13	42.5	N.N.W.	2	42.0	41.0	48.0	40.0	O.		
26	30.12	40.6	N.	2	40.0	37.0	49.0	38.0	O.		

EXPLANATION.

Initials:—b. blue sky; c. clouds; fog; h. hail; l. lightning; m. misty (hazy); o. overcast (dull); r. rain; s. snow; t. thunder; z. calm. Force from 1 to 12 estimated.

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COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

(From Messrs. Noël, Murray & Co. Piece Goods Trade Report of 25th February.)

PIECE GOODS.—As usually happens when China New Year falls early the interval between the resumption of business and the opening of navigation to the North drags very considerably, and this year has been no exception to the rule, in fact, if anything, it has been more pronounced. Whether it is due, however, to the near approach of the departure of the steamers, or the receipt at last of more satisfactory advices from the Outports generally, there is certainly a better feeling apparent in the market here, shown more particularly by the improvement in Auction prices. The demand privately is still restricted, and the large supplies held by the natives precludes forward buying, in the absence of any special inducement in the shape of lower prices at home. It is scarcely surprising that at the outset of the changes and reforms in the administration of the Government of this country, which are being gradually effected, some small inconvenience is occasioned by necessary alterations in dealing with the trade, as appears to be the case with Soochow at present, the dealers finding the new regulations a little irksome, a lull in the demand being attributed to this, and no doubt other places are affected in the same manner, but without question that will right itself in time. There has been some delay recently in sending forward supplies to SEZCHUEN owing to a new rapid which had formed in the River, causing a large quantity of goods to accumulate at HANKOW and further shipments from this were stopped accordingly. It is satisfactory to learn that the Native Authorities are taking steps to have this obstruction removed.

As regards the business done, although comparatively little is reported, there is certainly more enquiry, and it becomes evident that both the TIENSIN and NEWCHANG men have orders in hand, but are holding back in the hope of getting in on better terms. Clearances are improving naturally, as the TIENSIN steamers are to be despatched on the 4th March, according to present arrangements, the Agents estimating now that shipments will be more liberal than at first supposed, say 33,000 packages in all including Yarn, which looks more cheerful, and there is no reason to fear that this quantity will be excessive, as stocks are very high, there. It is gratifying to learn that the trouble connected with AMERICAN makes, which interfered so much with that trade last Autumn, has been amicably settled before the season opens, and for the peace and comfort of all concerned it is hoped that Importers here will abstain from offering any inducement to the Natives to repeat the infringement of well-known trade marks by selling them unchopped cloths.

The MANCHESTER market remains quiet but steady, manufacturers still resisting offers to lower their prices. Cotton has made an upward movement, being quoted 33½d. The advices received from the STATES report steadiness generally, offers to break previous quotations being refused.

Grey Shirtings.—8-4 lbs.—There is rather more disposition to buy medium qualities and sales of over 30,000 pieces are reported this week, as follows:—*Green Dog* £1.70, *Two Eagle* £1.72½, *Red Stag* £1.85, *Blue Cock* £1.90, *Pheasant (Tun Sin)* £1.92½, *Eye* £2.00/01, *Four Cash* £2.02½, *Variiegated Wheelbarrow* £2.10 less 1% and *Three Feet* £2.10 less ½%. The tendency is higher and Auction prices have taken a decided start in that direction.

Light Weights.—No sales of the lightest have appeared, but in 7lbs. nearly 5,000 pieces are mentioned, *Man and Horse* £1.45, *Steamer* £1.48 and *Pheasant (Tun Sin)* £1.65. At Auction a slight improvement was effected to-day.

Heavy Weights.—Sales of over 10,000 pieces, as reported, include—in 10-lbs. *Britannia F. C.* £2.30, *John Bull* £2.37½, *Red 5 Bats* and *Eagle W W W* £2.50, and 12½-lbs. *Round Horse* £3.07½. A fair amount has been done again for forward delivery in the best makes, slightly higher prices being paid in some instances to get the business through. Prices have improved all round at Auction, but not so much as the lower weight.

12-lbs.—36-inch.—Two or three small transactions have taken place, namely *Two Soldier* £2.70, *Tai Koo Soldier* £2.95, and *Soldier AAA* £3.16. Prices were again firmer at the Auction this morning.

White Shirtings.—Privately the request for this make is not brisk and only small parcels of the following are reported. *Two Elephant Head* £2.60, *Fancy Dog* £3.00 *Black and Gold Actor* £3.10 and a few finer make at £3.30. At Auction 64-reeds show a fair advance but 72-reeds were only slightly better.

T.-Cloths.—Sales of some 5,000 pieces are published from first hands, namely, *Stork* £1.30, *Gold 3 Bowls* £1.32½, *Blue Dragon* and *Shield* £1.54, and a resale of *Man and Tiger* at £1.65. A slight improvement is noticeable at Auction. INDIAN makes are not represented this week.

Drills.—*English.*—There is still nothing to report in these makes.

American.—Sales of 3,000 pieces spot cargo are in the book at Tls. 3.30 for *Stark Lion* and Tls. 3.35 for *Pepperell Dragon*, the market being quite steady at these prices. Nothing further appears to have been bought in the STATES, offers at a slight reduction on previous rates being declined.

Sheetings.—*English.*—Re-sales amongst the Chinese of some 10,000 pieces are reported, viz. *Blue Lion* at £2.87½, *Flying Horse* at £2.90 and *Large Flag* at £2.95, but nothing appears from first hands.

American.—The report all round is that there is nothing doing. The natives must hold large supplies, which they want to quit before calling again on Importers.

Jeans.—*English.*—A sale, privately, of 1,500 pieces *Beaver (Sin Wo)* has been made at £2.07, and, beyond the small offering at Auction, is all that is reported.

Cotton Yarn.—*English.*—No transactions are mentioned this week.

Indian.—A firm inquiry has continued during the interval and prices have further improved, although business has been on a slightly smaller scale than for the last few weeks. The demand has been chiefly for the lower counts for TIEN-TSIN. Sales amount to 1,779 bales, as follows:—

No. 10s., 535 bales.—*Hongkong Mill* £62/62½, *Anglo Indian Mule* £63, *Hope Mill* £63/63½, *Jamshed Ring*, £63/63½, *James Greaves* and *New Empress* £63½, *Framjee Petit* £64½/65½ and *Currimbhoy Ring* £65½.

No. 12s., 214 bales.—*Oriental Tardeo* and *Kaisar-i-Hind* £63½, *Mahaluzemi 5 Old Men* £64, *Wadia* £64½ and *A. E. A. & Co.'s Mandarin* £65.

No. 16s., 650 bales.—*City of Bombay*, Ring, *Vithaldas Copaldas (Woman)* and *A. E. A. & Co.'s Dragon* £68, *Oriental Colaba* £68/68½, *Imperial* £68½, *Bombay National* £68½, *Western India*, *Pony Carriage* £68½/68½, *Currimbhoy*, *Mule* £69, *Britannia*, Ring, £69½, and *Framjee Petit* £70½/70½.

No. 20s., 380 bales.—*Empress* and *Wadia* £72.00/72.50, *Imperial* £72.50, *Whittle* and *Vithaldas Copaldas*, *Woman* £73.00, *Tea Carrier* £74.75, and *Howard and Bullough* £75.25.

The s.s. *Kaisar-i-Hind* is bringing in 3,309 bales, and the *Austrian Mail*, due on 27th instant, some 1,500 bales.

Japanese.—A fair business is passing at firm rates, sales amounting in all to fully 600 bales. Cantonese Importers have sold 16s. as follows, *Elephant* and *Pagoda* £70, *Peacock* £70½, *Horse* and *Elephant* £70½, and Japanese Importers have sold 20s. *Fish* £72, *Horse* £72½, and *Elephant* £73. The home market is strong.

Fancy Goods.—For special designs a fair business is passing weekly in *Prints* from stock, but others are difficult to move. In *Turkey Reds* there is more doing, sales this week amounting to 9,500 pieces (singles) on the basis of £1.92½ for 4-lbs., £2 15 for 4½-lbs. and £2.35 for 5-lbs., *Fish* and *Joss* chop. At Auction *Black Cotton Italians* have suffered another sharp decline.

Woolens.—With the exception of some *Heavy SPANISH STRIPES* at £0.60 per yard for *Scarlet* and *Gentian* we hear of no private business. At the *Evo* Auction yesterday steady prices were paid for the few *Scarlet* CAMELS offered, to-day, however, they were very weak for that colour, but steady for *Gentian* and most of the chow chow colours. Best *LONG ELLS* are steady to firm but the lighter weights droop. LASTINGS again show some improvement, as do *SPANISH STRIPES* for the regular Auction Chops, but it is difficult to move others.

Metal and Miscellaneous.—From Messrs. Alex. Bielfeld & Co.'s Report of 26th February:—With the resumption of business after the Chinese holidays there has sprung up an additional activity in the projected railways. Tenders have been called for, from Chinese, for road-making and ballasting for the Shanghai-Woosung line, and from foreigners for fair locomotives. The Administration has found two and a half million taels to build this short line, and this will be proceeded with entirely under Chinese auspices. Sheng Taotai claims to have twenty million taels of Chinese capital towards building the Peking-Hankow line, and if this be the case, he will in a very short time make a beginning on this route too. So far as can be seen at present this will not greatly affect the dealers, as the Chinese hope to supply the materials from the Hanyang works. But even if this plan be successful, which seems very unlikely, there will be many plums to be picked by agents in the shape of accessories. And every advancement in China means an expansion of trade which cannot but benefit all concerned in goods from home.

There has not been much doing during the past week, the few transactions recorded below being, however, on slightly better terms than last year. Dealers can sell from stock below home quotations, and as long as this is so we can expect but little improvement.

The following contracts have been made public:—*OLD IRON*:—20 tons Old Boiler Plates at 82/6, c.i.f., 100 tons Hard Spelter at £15.2/0, c.i.f., 150 tons Old Cart Tyres at 92/0 to 92/6, c.i.f., 50 tons Old Cable Wire at 110/0, c.i.f.

SUNDRIES.—150 cases Berlin Wool, 6 oz. net, 160 packages at 35 cands., 50 cases Worm Tablets at 77½ cands., 3,000 dozen Huck Towels, 14 x 29 at 30 cands., 20 cases Llama Braid, 29/45 at 32 cands., 25 cases Tin Basins at £22.00, 75 cases Joker Clock at £16.50 to 16.75, 200 cases Candles, 9 oz. at £1.42½, 25 cases Tin Basins, slightly damaged at £20.00.

Opium.—Malwa, new, £560/575; old, £580. No business in Patna and Benares.

EXPORTS.

Silk.—From Mr. A. R. Burkill's Circular of 25th instant:—

London advices are to 24th, and quote "Gold Kilins 8/6, Blue Elephants 9/10½. Market quiet."

RAW SILK.—The market has been extremely flat during the week, the only feature of interest being the settlement of some X reeled Hand Filatures for the American market. There would also seem to be more encouragement for Steam Filatures, as the Export has been increased by shipments of about 300 piculs.

Tsatlees.—There has been very little enquiry, but prices are well maintained.

Taysaams.—Good qualities are quite out of stock, and purchases are extremely limited.

YELLOW SILKS.—No transactions.

ARRIVALS, as per Customs Returns, 18th to 24th current, 181 bales White, 205 piculs Yellow, and 58 piculs Wild Silks.

RE-REELS AND FILATURES.—About 150 bales X reeled Hand Filatures have been settled at quotations, and considerable quantities are under offer. Some transactions are reported in Steam Filatures, fine sizes, but terms have not transpired.

The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: to London 6 bales, to Continent 1,937 bales, and to America 1,978 bales.

WASTE SILK AND PONGEES.—No transactions of consequence.

Prices calculated by Maerten's Tables at 11 per cent. Exchange 2/11¼ and Fcs. 3.69. Freight Tls. 6.50 per bale.

	Tls. per picl.	Stlg. per lb.	Fcs. per kilo.		Tls. per picl.	Stlg. per lb.	Fcs. per kilo.
TSATLEES. —Mountain 3	400	10/2	28.10	FILATURE. —			
" " 5	362½	9/3½	25.55	May Hang Yu Ex. 1	510	12/10½	35.50
" " Large Elephant 4	373½	9/6½	26.30	" " No. 1	500	12/8	34.85
" " Gold Lion	372½	9/6	26.25	" " No. 2	490	12/5	34.20
" " Gold Kiling	351½	9/0	24.70	" " Flying Horse Ex. 1	480	12/2	33.50
" " Blue Phoenix	350	8/11½	24.65	" " No. 1	470	11/11	32.80
TAYSAM. —9 x 12 Moss Green Horse 3	363½	9/4	25.60	" " No. 2	460	11/8	32.15
	1896-97.	1895-96.	1894-95.	1893-94.	1892-93.	1891-92.	
Settlements for this mail	1,000	800/1,000	250	2,500	2,000	600 bales.	
" " season in- cluding forward contracts }	50,500	67,000	61,000	61,000	66,500	56,800	"
Stocks	9,000	15,000	5,500	9,500	4,500	10,000	"
Total Arrivals	59,500	82,000	66,500	70,500	71,000	66,800	"
		§ Including old Silk.					

Arrivals during the fortnight have been:—

Feb. 11, <i>Krim</i> , str.	1,230 tons	Kebao Coal, to consumers.
" 12, <i>E-Sang</i> , str.	2,010 "	Karatsu Coal, to consumers.
" 13, <i>Loksang</i> , str.	1,900 "	Moji Coal, to consumers.
" 13, <i>Hainan</i> , str.	1,035 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to consumers.
" 13, <i>Progress</i> , str.	1,156 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to native dealers.
" 13, <i>Osaka</i>	800 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to native dealers.
" 14, <i>Clan Mackenzie</i>	2,484 "	Cardiff Coal, to consumers.
" 15, <i>Szechuen</i> , str.	2,167 "	Moji Coal, to consumers.
" 15, <i>Nierstein</i> , str.	999 "	Fukumo Coal, to native dealers.
" 16, <i>Pronto</i> , str.	1,143 "	Moji Coal, to consumers.
" 16, <i>Bjorg</i> , str.	900 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to native dealers.
" 16, <i>Hermann</i> , str.	1,382 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to native dealers.
" 18, <i>Rheingold</i> , str.	948 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to native dealers.
" 19, <i>Asosan Maru</i> , str.	1,850 "	Moji Coal, to consumers.
" 20, <i>Pakhoi</i> , str.	1,872 "	Namatzuta Dust, to consumers.
" 23, <i>Kungping</i> , str.	472 "	Takao Dust, to consumers.
" 23, <i>Progress</i> , str.	2,700 "	Moji Coal, to consumers.
" 23, <i>Progress</i> , str.	1,030 "	Mixed Japan Coal, to native dealers.

KEROSENE OIL.—Business has been confined to the "Teashop," and re-sales among natives have been made on a large scale at prices ranging from Tls. 1.56 to Tls. 1.57½, the market closing at the latter prices for Devoe's and for Batoum at Tls. 1.55 per case; deliveries also have been large, owing to shipments to the Northern Ports. We hear of Batoum case oil "to arrive" having been sold by importers at Tls. 1.52½, while the usual daily business in bulk oil has been carried on at quotation below. Arrivals have been: *State of Maine* on the 13th instant with 56,000 cases, *Glenholm* on the 20th instant with 83,000 cases, both Devoe's.

Quotations—Devoe's.....	Tls. 1.57½ per case.
Russian	" 1.55 "
" Bulk	" 1.50 "
Langkat	" 1.51 "

Exchange.—(Closing Rates)—On London—Telegraphic Transfers, 2s. 10½d. a ½d. Banks Bills, demand, 2s. 10½d. a ½d. Banks Bills, 4 months' sight, 2s. 10½d. a ½d. First-Class Credits to Banks, 4 months' sight, 2s. 11½d. a ½d.; 6 months' sight, 2s. 11½d. a ½d. Private and Documentary, 4 months' sight, 2s. 11½d. a ½d.; 6 months' sight, 2s. 11½d. a ½d. On France—Banks Bills, demand, Fcs. 3.65; Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, 3.68½, 6 months' sight, 3.69½. On Germany—Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, Marks 2.99½, lowest 2.99, highest 3.00. On New York—Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, per \$100 G. \$72, lowest 72, highest 72½. On Hongkong—Telegraphic Transfers, £72½, lowest 72½, highest 72½ per \$100; Private Bills, 3 days' sight, £72½, lowest 72½, highest 72½. On Yokohama—Telegraphic Transfers, £72½, lowest 72½, highest 72½ per \$100. Private Bills, 15 days' sight, £72½, lowest 72½, highest 72½. On Bombay and Calcutta—Telegraphic Transfers, Rs. 228½, lowest 228, highest 229 per \$100. Bank Bills, demand, Rs. 229, lowest 228½, highest 229½. Bullion—Gold Bars, Shanghai, 98 touch, £335.50, lowest 334.00, highest 335.50. Silver Bars, £111.15, lowest 111.10, highest 111.20. Mexican dollars, £72.65, lowest 72.64, highest 72.7. Carolus dollars, £94.00, lowest 94.00, highest 96.00. Copper Cash 1,160, lowest 1,160, highest 1,180 per tael. Chinese Interest, mace 0.08, lowest 0.07, highest 1.00. Bar Silver in London, per oz. 29½½ a ½, lowest 29½½, highest 29½.

DAILY QUOTATIONS.

(From Messrs Morris, Fergusson & Robertson's Circular.)

Feb.	Bar Silver # oz in L'don.	ON LONDON.								FRANCE.		GER-MANY.	NEW YORK.	HONG-KONG.	YOKO-HAMA.	INDIA.
		T/Transfers.		Bank 4 m/s.		Credits 4 m/s.		Docty. 4 m/s.		Francs 4 m/s. and 6 do.		4 m/s. Priv.	Docty. 4 m/s.		T/T	T/T Rup.
		Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.					
20th.....	29½	2.10½	2.11½	2.11	2.11½	2.11½	2.11½	2.11½	2.11½	3.70/3.71	3.70/3.71	3.00	72½	72½	72½	228
22nd.....	29½	2.10½	2.11½	2.11	2.11½	2.11½	2.11½	2.11½	2.11½	3.69½/70½	3.70/3.71	3.00	72½	72½	72½	228
23rd.....	29½	2.10½	2.10½	2.11	2.11½	2.11½	2.11½	2.11½	2.11½	3.68½/69½	3.70/3.71	3.00	72	72½	72½	228
24th.....	29½	2.10½	2.10½	2.10½	2.11	2.11½	2.11½	2.11½	2.11½	3.68½/69½	3.69/3.70	2.99	72	72½	72½	228/229
25th.....	29½	2.10½	2.10½	2.10½	2.11	2.11½	2.11½	2.11½	2.11½	3.68½/69½	3.69/3.70	2.99	72	72½	72½	228/229
26th.....	29½	2.10½	2.10½	2.10½	2.11	2.11½	2.11½	2.11½	2.11½	3.68½/69½	3.69/3.70	2.99	72	72½	72½	228½/229

Shares.—From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report of 25th February:—

The market has been active during the week, and prices have been well maintained.

BANKS.—*Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.*—Shares were sold to Hongkong early in the week at 175 per cent premium for cash, and 177 for delivery on the 31st March. Business was done locally at 175 and 173½ per cent premium, and there are shares offering at the close. *Bank of China and Japan.* Deferred shares are wanted at £5.

MARINE INSURANCE.—*North-China Insurance* shares were sold at £190 cash and the same rate for delivery on the 31st March. Cash shares are offering. *Yantai* shares were sold to Hongkong at \$160, and were placed locally at \$162.50 and \$160 for 31st March. *Canton*, were sold at \$180. *Straits* were placed locally at \$29.75 for the 31st March, and were purchased from Hongkong for the same date at \$29. Shares are offering both cash and time.

FIRE INSURANCE.—*Chinas* have been in demand, and a sale was made at \$110 for delivery on the 30th June.

SHIPPING.—*Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat* shares were placed to Hongkong at \$34 and \$34.25. *Indo-China S.N.* shares have been sold to a fair extent at £33 to £33.50 cash, £33.50 for February, £33.50 for March, and £33.50 to £34.50 for April delivery. Business was also done to Hongkong at \$46.50, \$45, \$40 and \$40½ again.

SUGARS.—*Perak Sugar Cultivation* shares were placed for March at £29, and they are wanted cash and time. *China Sugar Refining* shares were done at \$145 cash and \$150 for 30th April. Shares were also placed to Hongkong at \$146. There are sellers at the close.

MINING.—*Sheridans* are wanted at £3. *Punjoms* were sold to Hongkong at \$10.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Shares in *S. C. Farnham & Co.* were placed at £187.50 to £190 cash, and £187 to £195 for April delivery, and are offering cash. *Shanghai Dock* shares, with £50 paid up, are offering at £45. *Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf* shares have changed hands at £122.50. *Hongkong & Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd.*—The Directors' Report and Statement of Accounts for the half year to the 31st December last, were presented and passed at the meeting of shareholders held in Hongkong on the 22nd instant. The net profits amount to \$436,391.21 equal to 27.92 per cent on the capital, against 35.94 per cent in the previous term. Including a balance of \$156,969.13 from the previous half year, there was a sum of \$593,360.34 available for division, out of which a dividend of 3 per cent, or \$125,000, and a bonus of 4 per cent, or \$62,500 to shareholders, a bonus of \$20,000 to contributing shareholders and a bonus of \$20,500 to the European staff of the Company, were declared. \$61,255.63 were written off the value of the Docks, \$200,000 were passed to Reserve Fund, leaving a balance of \$104,104.71 to be carried forward. Shares are wanted, in Hongkong, at 225 per cent premium, ex div. *Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf & Godown Co. Ltd.*—The Directors' report and the accounts were passed at a meeting of shareholders held in Hongkong on the 23rd instant. The net profits for the year amounted to \$69,692.39, equal to 6.97 per cent on the capital, against 6.33 per cent on the previous year. An interim dividend of 2½ per cent was paid in August. A final dividend of 2½ per cent was declared, \$22,389.57 were written off for Depreciation and Repairs, and a balance of \$10,119.41 was carried forward. Shares are wanted in Hongkong at \$58 ex div.

LANDS.—*Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd.*—The Directors' Report and Statement of Accounts for 1896 were presented and passed at the meeting of shareholders held on the 22nd instant. The Working Account shows a net profit of £77,695.34, equal to 7.93 per cent on the capital paid up on the 31st December. An increase of £21,204.76 over that of 1895. Including a balance of £3,898.01 from the previous year, and a profit of £30,983.34 on the Estate No. 3, and deducting an interim dividend of 4 per cent paid in July, there is a balance of £80,028.69 available, which was divided as follows: a final dividend of 5 per cent, making 9 per cent for the year, £48,566.00, transfer £30,353.77 to the Reserve Fund, which will stand at £70,000, and carry the balance of £1,108.92 forward. At the succeeding extraordinary general meeting a resolution was passed increasing the Capital by the issue of 6,000 new shares of £50 each, which will be offered at 40 per cent premium to the shareholders in the proportion of three new shares for every existing ten shares held by them, such new shares to rank for dividend from the 1st July next. Shares have changed hands at £90 ex div. *Kowloon Land & Building* shares have been placed to Hongkong at \$15.25 ex div.

INDUSTRIAL.—*Shanghai Gas* shares have been sold at £220 for the 15th March, and subsequently at the same price cash. *Ewo Cotton S. & W.* shares were sold at \$85, *Laou-Kung-Mow* shares at £90, and *Soy Chee Cotton* shares at \$525. *International* and *Laou-Kung-Mow* shares are offering at quotations. *China Flour Mill* shares are wanted at £48.

TUGS AND CARGO BOATS.—*Shanghai Cargo Boat* shares changed hands at T.207.50 cum dividend.

MISCELLANEOUS.—*Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco* shares have been placed at £160/161.50 cash, £162.50 for March, £165 for April £165/167.50 for June, and £170 for August. *Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco* shares changed hands at £480 to £510 cash, £525 for March, and April, and for August and October at £60. *Central Stores* shares, with \$15 paid up, were sold at \$11 and \$10.

LOANS.—Some *Municipal Debentures* of 1896 were sold at £101 plus the accrued interest.

LOANS.	Amount of Loan.	Outstanding.	Nominal Value.	Rate of Interest.	When Payable.	Return on Inv. allowing for Amortization.	Closing.
Shanghai Mun. Debentures—Issue 1888	£70,000.00	£70,000.00	£100	6%	Dec. & June.	(g) 4.90%	... (a) nominal.
Do. 1890	£20,000.00	£20,000.00	£100	6%	Do.	...	... "
Do. 1891	£20,000.00	£20,000.00	£100	5½%	Do.	...	... "
Do. 1892	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	£100	5%	Do.	...	... (a) £100.00
Do. 1893	£125,000.00	£125,000.00	£100	5½%	Do.	(g) 5.06%	... (a) £104.00
Do. 1894	£105,000.00	£105,000.00	£100	6%	Do.	(g) 5.15%	... (a) £110.00
Do. 1895	£115,000.00	£115,000.00	£100	5%	Do.	(g) 4.92%	... (a) £101.00
Do. 1896	£120,000.00	£120,000.00	£100	5%	Do.	(g) 4.92%	... (a) £101.00
Lyceum Theatre Debentures.....	£17,000.00	£17,000.00	£25	4%	24 July 1895	...	... £15.00
Chinese Imp. Government Loan 1886 E.	£1767,200.00	£680,104.00	£250	7%	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 6.05%	... (a) £275.00
Shanghai Land Inv. Co. Debentures. 1890	£250,000.00	£250,000.00	£100	6%	May & Nov.	(g) 5.48%	... (a) £106.00
Do. Do. 1892	£250,000.00	£250,000.00	£100	5½%	June & Dec.	(g) 5.04%	... (a) £105.00
Do. Do. 1894	£250,000.00	£250,000.00	£100	6%	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 5.47%	... (a) £106.00
Do. Do. 1896	£250,000.00	£250,000.00	£100	5%	June & Dec.	(g) 4.92%	... (a) £101.00
Shanghai Waterworks Co. Debentures. 94]	£100,000.00	£100,000.00	£100	6%	Mar. & Sept.	(g) 4.65%	... (a) £112.50
Do. " 96]	£100,000.00	£100,000.00	£100	5%	June & Dec.	...	... (a) £110.00
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co. "	£400,000.00	£100,000.00	£100	6%	June & Dec.	(g) 5.08%	... (a) £106.00

AUCTION SALES.

Auctions for the week ending 25th February, 1897, comprised the following Goods:—

	For the week.	Previous week.	Corresponding week last year.		For the week.	Previous week.	Corresponding week last year.
Grey Shirtings.....	13,295 pcs. against 18,450 pcs. and 16,455 pcs.			Velvets.....	144 pcs. against 144 pcs. and 168 pcs.		
White Shirtings	8,690 " " 8,650 " "			Velveteens	" " " " " "		
T-Cloths	2,330 " " 3,010 " "			Cotton Yarn	" bales " " " "		
Drills, English.....	400 " " 300 " "			Camlets	710 pcs. " " " "		
Jeans, "	320 " " 320 " "			Long Ells	740 " " " " "		
Sheetings	1,120 " " 1,000 " "			Lastings	460 " " " " "		
Turkey Reds	500 " " 1,460 " "			Spanish Stripes ..	546 " " " " "		

At Nie-kee, 20th inst.—

Black Velvets.—144 pieces: 18-in. *Lion & Flag* £0.11, do. 22-in. £0.17, *Snowfall* 26-in. £0.172.

Turkey Reds.—500 pieces; 8 *Joss* 3½-lbs. £1.53, do. 3½-lbs. £1.70, do. 4-lbs. £1.89, do. 4½-lbs. £2.10, do. 5-lbs. £2.30, *Umbrella* 4½-lbs. £1.56, *Sampans* 7-lbs. £2.18/20 and *Fighting* £2.33.

At E-wo, 24th inst.—

Grey Shirtings.—8.4-lbs.—1,800 pieces; *Red Bell* £1.88½/69½, *Blue Dragon* and 7 *Boys* £2.11½, *Blue Tea Caddy DDD* £2.15½/15½, *Blue Dragon* and 6 *Woman* £2.14½/15½, *Blue 2 Tea Caddy* £2.38½.

10-lbs.—1,000 pieces; *Blue 3 Duck* £2.14½, *Blue Crab* £2.40½/41, *Blue Dragon* and 7 *Boys* £2.47.

12-lbs.—1,200 pieces; 2 *Ladders and Gun* £2.67½, *Elephant* £2.64/64½, *Man & Horse* £2.87½/88, and *Fisher Boat* £3.07½.

White Shirtings.—400 pieces; *Green Dragon* No. 700 £2.40½/41, do. No. 750 £2.40½, *Sun No. 13* £2.55, and *Woman A* £3.26.

T-Cloths.—7-lbs.—1,250 pieces; *Man and Gong* £1.28½, *Feather* £1.35, *Red Tea Caddy* £1.44½.

Jeans.—8-lbs.—200 pieces; *Tiger and Tree* £2.38½/39½.

Sheetings.—14-lbs.—600 pieces; *Bulls' Head* £2.64½, *Blue Bell* £2.81/82½, *Eagle and Snake* £2.84/84½.

Drills.—14-lbs.—400 pieces; *Blue Dragon AA* £2.58½, *Bat and Deer* £2.59½/60.

At Yuen-foong, 24th inst.—

Grey Shirtings.—6-lbs.—1,000 pieces; *Lotus* £0.73½/73½.

7-lbs.—1,195 pieces; *Blue Britannia* £1.49½/50, *Blue 4 Sister* £1.53½, *Blue 3 Student* £1.67½.

8.4-lbs.—5,530 pieces; *Green 9 Lion* £1.52, *Double Man* £1.55/55½, *House* £1.54, *Blue Britannia* £1.72½, *Gold 2 Sister* £1.74½, *Blue 4 Sisters* £1.90½, *Blue 3 Students* £1.88/88½, *Blue Double Shield* £1.92½, *Gold 3 Students* £1.95½/96, *Red 3 Students* £1.93½/93½, *Red Emperor's Birthday* £1.98½/99½, 7 *Sister* £2.06½, 5 *Brothers* £2.10½/10½, and 200 pieces 8½-lbs. 18 *Brothers* £2.27.

10-lbs.—2,050 pieces; *Red Britannia* £2.40½, *Red 3 Students* £2.35½/36, *Red Emperor's Birthday* £2.41½/42, *Red 4 Sister* £2.45½, *Painted 8 Literati* £2.56½.

10.12-lbs.—550 pieces; *Gold Britannia* £2.5½/56½, *Lily* £2.86.

11-lbs.—750 pieces; *Painted 3 Students* £2.61½/62.

12-lbs.—1,020 pieces; *China Square* £2.60/60½, *Nine Lions* £2.69½/70, *Soldier* £2.75, *Lily* £3.05/05½.

White Shirtings.—64-reed.—2,160 pieces; *House Bright* £1.95, do. *Dull* £1.93½, *Blue 2 Lighthouse Bright* £1.98½, do. *Dull* £1.97/97½, *Black Gold 3 Students* £2.29/30 and *Peacock* £2.20½.

72-reed.—6,190 pieces; 1 *Horse Head* £2.35, *White Gold 3 Students* £2.43½/44½, *Red 2 Sisters* £2.43, *Red 2 Light House Bright* £2.44½/45, do. *Dull* £2.45½/45½, *Red Gold Star*, *Bright* £2.73½/73½, do. *Dull* £2.66½/66½, *Red 5 Star*, *Bright* £2.98½/98½, *Painted 4 Sisters Bright* £2.68/68½, do. *Dull* £2.70/70½, *Black Flag Chief* £3.06½, *Lily* £3.39½, *Grand Feather* £3.05/05½, and *Students* £3.45/46.

T-Cloths.—7-lbs.—630 pieces; *Blue 3 Students* £1.27½, *Blue Lion* £1.45, *Red Double Shield* £1.44, *Red 3 Students* £1.57½.

8-lbs.—450 pieces; *Blue Lion* £1.63½, *Painted 3 Students* £2.07½.

Jeans.—8-lbs.—120 pieces; *Double Squirrel* £2.19½.

Sheetings.—14-lbs.—620 pieces; *Lion on Cloud* £2.73, *Nine Lion* £2.73, *Old Man Head B.* £2.77, do. A. £2.86½/87½.

Cotton Italians.—1,260 pieces; *Lily* £5.46, *Students* £5.13/15, *Painted 2 Sister* £3.66/68, *Painted 9 Lion* £3.60, *Black Flag Chief* £3.29/30 and *Loe Loe Tong* £3.38.

Statement of Imports and Deliveries of Cotton and Woolen Piece Goods for the week ending 24th February 1897, compiled from the "Customs Daily Returns," No. 37 to 42, both numbers inclusive.

RE-EXPORTS AND THEIR DESTINATIONS.

Goods.	Ningpo.	Wanchow.	Chinkiang.	Wuhu.	Kiukiang.	Hankow.	Jehang & Chungking.	Cheloo.	Tientsin.	Newchwang.	Foochow.	Hongkong.	Japan.	Corea.	Vladivostok.	Local.	Sumatra.
Grey Shirtings + ... Pcs.	7,350	2,110	4,150	1,900	4,705	42,555	...	9,350	...	...	1045	...	550	...	...	7,000	50
T-Cloths, 32-in.	2,850	1,000	425	350	305	2,795	...	5,385	...	...	1520	...	...	...	...	1,000	...
" 36-in.	1,290	...	...	...	...	120	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	400	...
" Indian, 32 & 36-in.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,910	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	400	...
White Shirtings	420	1,130	550	100	1,566	15,330	...	2,510	...	...	...	247	...	...	...	1,500	1,346
Drills, English & Dutch.	183	120	...	...	...	...	...	3-5	...	...	30	...	...	...	...	150	...
" American	30	45	75	...	60	930	...	2,025	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	180	...
Jeans, English & Dutch.	...	...	...	...	20	...	...	80	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	...
" American	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	60
Sheetings, English	26	...	340	970	690	2,890	...	1,160	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	400	...
" Indian	...	...	...	60	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	140	...
" American	260	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,700	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	300	...
Dyed Shirtings	...	...	...	300	100	288	...	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	...
Bro. & Sp. S'tings, D. & W.	...	50	...	...	...	80	...	200	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	...
Chintzes	50	...	...	120	60	1,730	...	210	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	...
Printed T-Cloths	120	...	120	240	480	1,989	...	725	...	...	...	60	...	...	...	400	...
Printed Twills	...	...	60	120	60	997	...	360	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	300	...
Turkey Red Shirtings	375	435	250	105	200	860	...	1,680	...	...	250	75	...	...	...	200	...
Velvets	78	30	...	30	54	102	...	90	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	...
Velveteens	...	...	...	...	...	72	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	...
Handkerchiefs Doz.	...	220	460	...	800	2,963	...	400	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,800	...
Muslins Pcs.	...	...	...	...	...	580	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	...
Lenos & Balzarines	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	...
Cotton Yarn, Indian Pcs.	357	168	2,325	15	435	6,642	...	1,290	...	...	...	30	...	...	...	180	...
" English	...	...	...	...	15	87	...	57	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Japan	125	...	72	121	120	754	...	1,382	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Spanish Stripes, Woollen Pcs.	60	96	24	...	36	420	...	120	...	...	30	...	...	...	...	48	...
" Cotton	...	...	36	...	144	...	...	264	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	...
Medium & Broad Cloths.	18	18	6	...	12	68	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	120	...
Camlets	60	233	30	...	80	1,020	...	50	...	...	50	20	...	...	...	130	...
Long Ellis	...	100	...	60	90	555	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	140	...
Lastings	40	100	...	...	60	520	...	240	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	160	...
Italian Cloth	270	30	90	60	...	570	...	...	...	...	90	...	...	...	...	180	...
Cotton Lastings & Italians	580	781	510	40	510	6,010	...	1,850	...	...	50	...	...	...	...	500	...
Plain & Figured Orleans.	80	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cotton Flannels	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	260	...
" do. Japan	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lead-in Pigs Pcs.	44	9	101	...	990	73	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Iron, Nail Rod	...	...	462	...	105	756	...	...	...	...	...	...	42	...	...	...	...
Kerosine Oil, American Cases	3,700	1,000	15,500	2,000	7,430	16,000	...	1,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Russian	11,300	...	2,500	1,000	5,048	13,000	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Stocks at date are based on the Chamber of Commerce Returns on 31st December, 1896.

Goods.	TOTAL DELIVERIES.			TOTAL IMPORTS.			Stocks at date are based on the Chamber of Commerce Returns on 31st December, 1896.	
	As above.	For the year from 1st Jan. 1897.	Against last year to same term.	For the week.	For the year from 1st Jan. 1897.	Against last year to same term.	* At date Estimated.	Against 15th February, 1896.
Grey Shirtings Pcs.	80,765	366,826	398,258	104,348	395,133	578,738	1,940,509	1,815,647
T-Cloths, 32-in.	15,660	60,948	63,272	6,667	44,388	93,134	275,898	294,183
" 36-in.	1,810	9,766	9,825	1,360	11,333	20,198	64,040	63,381
" Indian, 32 & 36-in.	3,310	9,360	7,250	5,000	17,510	17,100	37,126	180,288
White Shirtings	24,639	109,570	104,561	77,934	221,569	155,483	769,413	514,261
Drills, Eng. & Dutch	868	5,288	6,987	6,881	20,745	35,666	165,538	236,052
" American	3,345	18,555	13,605	1,590	50,505	20,250	332,810	43,950
Jeans, Eng. & Dutch	200	3,670	2,430	8,120	15,669	15,012	70,555	68,770
" American	160	980	815	...	2,000	4,000	7,940	4,185
Sheetings, English	6,710	34,750	42,050	9,182	43,408	81,521	264,141	181,386
" Indian	200	3,010	4,090	3,210	17,550	68,733	59,755	97,755
" American	8,260	19,550	10,715	61,465	213,735	80,250	1,225,275	242,305
Dyed Shirtings	958	9,957	7,472	3,395	18,016	11,245	40,071	18,336
Bro. & Spot. Shts., D. & W.	430	2,337	3,848	...	2,638	1,664	26,602	22,678
Chintzes	2,370	7,377	6,718	7,942	38,362	14,426	63,487	14,127
Printed T-Cloths	4,134	23,031	30,609	14,193	78,669	70,590	502,834	226,463
Printed Twills	1,897	7,990	7,643	8,803	16,887	7,911	112,584	38,074
Turkey Red Shirtings	4,430	16,820	20,595	...	7,442	37,809	245,208	91,800
Velvets	444	1,668	3,026	738	5,148	3,045	22,224	6,439
Velveteens	132	720	1,630	432	1,960	1,640	17,398	2,554
Handkerchiefs Doz.	6,643	35,746	45,674	13,777	67,127	62,163	451,701	113,767
Muslins Pcs.	680	3,247	2,835	4,341	13,066	41,578	110,286	86,814
Lenos & Balzarines	100	300	...	2,998	9,010	3,793	20,827	5,953
Cotton Yarn, Indian Pcs.	11,442	51,624	45,488	9,402	74,406	57,816	145,509	81,434
" English	189	2,190	2,556	210	642	735	4,019	1,241
" Japan	2,580	7,704	396	...	6,782	1,017	16,074	633
Spanish Stripes, Woollen.	834	3,840	3,227	425	977	4,940	10,897	8,537
" Cotton	504	2,096	1,582	1,683	6,167	3,692	25,389	5,232
Med. & Broad Cloths	248	1,168	1,384	261	2,174	3,291	13,308	5,998
Camlets	1,673	4,983	4,040	690	4,860	6,850	16,907	18,940
Long Ellis	945	5,930	7,735	940	8,160	9,600	68,155	58,199
Lastings	1,120	4,530	4,869	1,250	9,547	5,598	26,011	10,424
Italian Cloth	1,290	6,422	4,993	4,798	12,127	8,382	58,714	9,259
Cotton Lastings & Italians	10,831	45,949	50,559	39,570	150,822	62,410	508,739	139,109
Plain & Figured Orleans.	80	180	60	...	...	...	4,110	1,480
Cotton Flannels	280	3,660	5,195	20	20	815	65,090	4,720
" do. Japan	12	965	4,801	...	1,373	227	3,598	...
Lead-in Pigs Pcs.	1,217	6,488	5,283	...	9,845	13,447	11,737	14,480
Iron—Nail Rod	1,365	12,024	16,276	...	...	15,547	120,494	87,581
Kerosine Oil, American Cases	46,630	291,489	188,534	...	67,382	65,846	?	?
" Russian	33,348	137,898	186,800	116,410	212,946	...	?	?

+ Including English and Dutch 12-lbs.

‡ The usual daily returns from the Wharves unobtainable.

* Exclusive of undecolored Import Carriages per Nestor, Benmohr, Patroclus, Peru, Pinguet, Java, Glenartney, Rohilla, Maria Rickmers, Preussen, Coptic, Empress of Japan, Melbourne, Sikh and Izion.

Import Carriages declared interval:— Priam, Canton, Oceanien, Additional Mirzapore, China and Promethens, and In Bond, Baemar Glenartney.

SHARES.

SHANGHAI, 26th February, 1897.

SHARES.	No.	Value.	Paid up.	POSITION PER LAST REPORT.			LAST DIVD. &c		Average dividends for 3 years.	Return on investment on average of 3 years' dividends.	CASH QUOTATION	
				Reserve.	At Working Account.	Date.	To Shareholders	When paid or due.			Closing.	
<i>Banks.</i>												
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Co.	80,000	\$125	\$125	\$6,500,000	\$300,323.93	31-12-96	*£11	15-2-97	\$22.85	per cent.	\$341.87	249.57
Bank of China & Japan Ltd.												
Do. ordinary shares	94,208	£8	£3	.....	£27,515.78(a)	31-12-95	none	.....	.....	.....	nom.	.....
Do. deferred do.	1,026	£1	£1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	£5.00	18.80
National Bank of China, Ltd.	46,453	£10	£1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4.60	nominal	nom.
Do.	3,818	£10	£10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1.18	\$100.00	73.00
Do. Founders'	750	£1	£1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
<i>Insurance (Marine.)</i>												
Union Ins. Society of Canton, Ltd.	10,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,500,000.00 (c) 767,766.3	\$748,585.30	30-6-96	†\$15	9-10-96	\$12.00	5.10	\$235.00	171.55
China Traders' Ins. Co., Ltd.	24,000	\$83.33	\$25	\$1,100,000.00 £164,988.46	\$327,348.85	30-4-96	†\$5	28-9-96	\$5.00	6.76	\$74.00	54.04
North-China Ins. Co., Ltd.	5,000	£100	£25	\$250,000.00	\$353,511.02	31-12-95	†\$16.49	29-4-96	\$16.79	8.61	.....	195.00
Yangtze Insurance Ass'n, Ltd.	6,948	\$100	\$60	\$400,000.00 £872,219.93	\$346,816.85	31-12-95	†\$12	21-4-96	\$9.00	5.67	\$158.50	115.70
Canton Insurance Office	10,000	\$250	£10	\$1,300,000	\$45,015.58	31-12-95	†\$5	9-1-97	\$10.67	5.93	\$180.00	131.40
Straits Insurance Co., Ltd.	30,000	\$100	\$20	\$190,000.00 £109,000.00	\$553,646.69	31-12-95	†\$2	27-3-96	\$1.83	6.42	\$28.50	20.80
<i>Insurance (Fire.)</i>												
Hongkong Fire Ins. Co., Ltd.	8,000	\$250	\$50	\$1,000,000	\$200,712.64	31-12-95	†\$9.05	6-3-96	\$13.02	3.33	\$391.00	285.43
China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$100	\$20	\$886,850	\$267,166.11	31-12-95	†\$6.00	15-2-97	\$4.67	4.37	\$107.00	78.11
<i>Shipping.</i>												
H'kong, C'ton & M'cao S.B. Co.	80,000	\$15	\$15	\$609,000	\$743.16	31-12-96	*\$8	1-2-97	\$2.03	5.97	\$34.00	24.82
Indo-China Steam Nav. Co.	49,589	£10	£10	£54,595.16	\$6,066.13	31-12-95	†\$5.07	2-7-96	\$3.94	11.16	.....	33.50
Douglas Steamship Co. Ltd.	20,000	\$50	\$50	\$100,000.00 £40,020.00	\$1,603.59	30-6-96	†\$8.00	1-10-96	\$6.33	10.40	\$60.50	44.16
Ch. Mutual S.N. Co. pref. shares.	16,736	£10	£10	£12,693.50	.....	.....	*3%	1-10-96	\$4.11	8.56	£7.00	48.00
Do. ord. do.	1,231	£10	£10	.....	.....	.....	+6%	12-3-96	\$2.70	.....	nom.	.....
Do. do. do.	15,505	£10	£5	£94,199.11.3	£1,472.18.4	31-12-95	+6%	12-3-96	\$1.85	10.57	.....	17.50
<i>Sugar Companies.</i>												
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co. Ltd.	5,000	\$50	\$50	.....	\$8,271.00	31-10-95	†\$2	23-1-96	\$1.67	.....	.....	25.50
China Sugar Refining Co. Ltd.	20,000	\$100	\$100	none	\$244,332.45	31-12-95	†\$4	28-3-95	\$10.33	7.12	\$145.00	105.85
Luzon Sugar Refining Co. Ltd.	7,000	\$100	\$100	none	\$9,727.18	31-12-95	†\$3	27-3-96	\$2.67	5.11	\$52.25	40.14
<i>Mining.</i>												
Sheridan Con. M. & M. Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$100	\$100	.....	\$138,021.47	31-12-95	none	.....	none	.....	.....	3.00
Punjom Mining Co. Ltd.	59,349	\$4	\$4	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7.23
Do. pref. shares.	30,000	\$1	\$1	.....	\$15,657.81	30-9-96	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2.26
Jebeu Mining & Trading Co. Ltd.	45,000	\$5	\$5	.....	\$86,781.00	9-8-96	*5%	15-10-94	\$0.48	21.81	\$3.20	1.61
Raub A'lian Gold Min. Co. Ltd.	200,000	£1	13/10	none	\$4,269.16.1	31-3-96	£0.25	26-5-96	\$0.07	0.64	\$11.00	8.03
<i>Docks, Wharves and Godowns.</i>												
Bcyd & Co., Ltd. Founders'	200	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	nom.
Bcyd & Co., Ltd. Ordinary	7,800	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	200.00
S. C. Farnham & Co., Ltd.	7,500	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	187.50
S'hai E. S. & Dock Co., Ltd. ord.	6,000	\$100	\$50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	45.00
Do. Founders'	200	\$100	\$50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	225.00
H'kong & W'pao Dock Co., Ltd.	12,500	\$125	\$125	\$400,000	\$156,969.13	30-6-96	*12%	25-8-96	\$21.67	5.35	\$405.00	295.65
Shanghai & H'kew Wharf Co.	15,100	\$100	\$100	\$94,089.75	.....	31-12-95	†\$3.00	20-8-96	\$7.00	5.71	.....	122.50
H'kong & K'loon Wh. & G. Co., Ltd.	20,900	\$50	\$50	.....	\$13,316.59	31-12-95	†\$1.25	24-8-96	\$2.83	4.88	\$58.00	42.34
<i>Lands.</i>												
Sh. Land Investment Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$50	\$50	\$70,000.00	\$1,108.95	31-12-96	15%	23-2-97	\$3.92	4.36	.....	90.00
H'kong Land Invest. & A. Co. Ltd.	50,000	\$100	\$50	\$1,250,000	\$66,559.49	31-12-96	14%	22-1-97	\$4.00	5.18	\$75.25	54.90
Kowloon Land & Building Co. Ltd.	5,960	\$50	\$30	none	\$266.12	31-12-96	†\$0.50	9-2-97	\$0.77	5.13	\$15.00	10.95
Humphreys Estate & F. Co. Ltd.	25,400	\$10	\$10	\$50,000.00	\$2,718.61	31-12-95	\$0.70	26-2-96	\$0.48	5.33	9.00	6.57
<i>Industrial.</i>												
Shanghai Gas Co.	3,600	\$100	\$100	\$100,000	\$12,802.91	31-12-95	†\$8.50	14-1-97	\$14.66	6.66	.....	220.00
Major Brothers, Ltd.	6,000	\$50	\$50	.....	\$19,686.33	31-10-95	†\$1.50	9-12-94	.....	.....	.....	40.00
Ewo Cotton Sp. & W. Co., Ltd.	10,000	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	85.00
International Cotton Man. Co. Ltd.	6,349	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	89.00
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd.	8,000	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	90.00
Soy Chee Cotton Spin. Co. Ltd.	2,000	\$500	\$500	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	525.00
Shanghai Ice Co.	540	\$100	\$100	\$6,800.00	.....	31-10-96	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	131.00
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.	2,000	\$25	\$25	.....	\$775.52	31-12-96	+6%	24-2-97	.....	.....	.....	28.50
China Flour Mill Co., Ltd.	3,000	\$50	\$50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40.00
<i>Tugs and Cargo Boats.</i>												
Shanghai Tug Boat Co., Ltd.	1,000	\$100	\$100	\$53,000.00	\$818.50	31-12-95	†\$5	15-12-96	\$18.67	8.89	.....	210.00
Taku Tug and Lighter Co., Ltd.	8,600	T. \$50	T. \$50	T. \$1,100,000 £25,235.77	\$12,937.43	31-12-95	47%	23-7-96	\$7.67	7.05	T. \$108.75	.....
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co. Ltd.	2,000	\$100	\$100	\$74,788.67	\$26,467.72	31-12-95	17%	5-8-96	\$15.33	7.38	.....	207.50
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co., Ltd.	1,000	\$100	\$100	\$42,152.84	\$1,477.72	31-12-95	15%	5-8-96	\$13.00	6.84	.....	190.00
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>												
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.	7,200	£20	£20	\$20,000.00	\$11,572.50	31-12-95	†\$4.96	25-7-96	\$11.02	4.32	.....	255.00
Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co.	6,500	\$20	\$20	\$3,485.11	\$80,530.33	31-12-95	†\$2.94	7-1-97	\$7.94	4.91	.....	161.50
Shanghai Langkat Tob. Co., Ltd.	3,980	\$100	\$100	.....	\$186,229.23	31-12-95	none	.....	.....	.....	.....	510.00
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.	1,800	\$50	\$50	\$8,053.66	\$4,687.44	31-12-95	†\$4	24-4-96	\$4.56	5.62	.....	80.00
J. Llewellyn & Co., Ltd.	1,200	\$100	\$100	.....	\$811,267.94	31-12-95	17%	25-5-93	\$2.33	4.66	\$50.00	36.50
Hall & Holtz, Ltd.	6,250	\$20	\$20	\$75,000.00	\$9,020.01	29-2-96	†\$2	30-9-96	\$3.20	8.42	\$38.00	27.74
A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd.	60,000	\$10	\$10	\$125,000	\$8,015.44	31-12-95	15%	26-11-96	\$0.93	7.15	\$13.00	9.49
Bell's Asbestos Eastern	3,000	£1	£1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6.57
Agency, Ltd.	5,200	£1	0.17.0	.....	£47.0.3	31-12-95	None.	.....	.....	.....	.....	5.84
Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd.	30,000	\$10	\$8	none	\$8,119.23	30-4-96	15%	22-6-95	\$0.13	2.00	\$6.50	4.75
Central Stores, Ltd.	6,000	\$20	\$15	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	\$10.00	7.30

* For half year. † For year. ‡ Interim dividend. § Final dividend for business year. & A deficit. (a) Exclusive of accrued interest.
(c) Insurance Fund. (d) Depreciation Fund. (e) Reserve against Exchange and Investment Fluctuations. (f) Bonus.
(g) Assuming that they run for the full term. (h) On the 31st December last, there were only £1.10.0 per share paid up, this, with the further calls of £1.0.0 per share since paid, cover the deficit. For all Dollar shares the exchange is fixed at 73.

J. P. BISSET & Co.